

Tomah, Wis., Dec. 27, 1921.

Mrs. S. N. Whittlesey,  
Cranmoor, Wis.

Dear Mrs. Whittlesey:

In reply to your letter of Dec. 13th, will state conditions as they were here. In the fall of 1920 the budding was poor—we went into the winter with a light flood. During the winter our outlet went out twice, exposing the vines to some severe weather during February and March. We had our severe loss at that time, thus giving us a poor start in the spring of 1921.

In 1920 we were severely hit by fireworm. They were scattered all over the marsh and in one or two places took everything, but the vines came on all right and the fruit buds set for our 1921 crop.

In the spring the vines came along nicely (those that survived the winter) and we had a fairly good blossoming. If the fruit had come on we would have had 500 barrels, but when the berries began to set they just dried up. Wherever the vine produced two fruit shoots from one upright (and this was the case in nearly every upright which had been hit by fireworm the summer previous) the vine did not have vitality enough to produce the fruit. In other words, wherever one could find fruit it was produced on single uprights from a lone bud.

During the past season we had very little fireworm. What there was appeared very scattered, and early in the fall the vines seemed to recover well from the attack and due to the late fall they set buds and came on very well. We have a good flood on now and are hoping for a larger crop next year.

Yours truly,  
Vere Johnson.

## EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED

"The main problem before the growers today is to increase their crops and improve the quality of same. By continued advertising we have increased the demand more rapidly than we have increased the supply and it is important that the supply be increased in order to give the people what they want."

A. U. Chaney,  
New York City.

"May I suggest that I think more publicity should be given to cranberries in the newspapers north, south, east and west. Freight rates are too high. Cost of package too much. Barrels, \$1.00; half-barrel boxes, 50 cents. Cost of marketing is too much."

Lucian J. Fosdick,  
Boston, Mass.

We are publishing the letters of Dr. Shear and Doctor Stevens in full, as the information given and desired should attract the attention of all growers. Dr. Stevens' request may stimulate some record keeping in the future. No one seems to have kept any data heretofore.

December 7, 1921.

Mrs. S. N. Whittlesey, Secretary,  
Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers' Association,  
Cranmoor, Wisconsin.

Dear Mrs. Whittlesey:

Replying to your kind favor of the 5th inst. I regret to say that it will not be practicable for me or Dr. Stevens to attend your next an-

nual meeting in January, and I fear that if we came, we could not supply you with any very practical new information in regard to cranberry troubles.

We are still working on the subject of cranberry diseases but find that the little we are learning is so small compared with the vast number of things yet to be learned that it seems somewhat discouraging.

I appreciate very much your kind words and am only regretful that we have not done more to deserve them.

In so far as the disease situation in your state is concerned, it does not look at present as though it would be practicable or profitable in many cases to practise spraying for fungous diseases alone. If it should be found that it is profitable to spray for insects, it would then be very desirable to add Bordeaux mixture to your insecticide spray. In general the most practical methods of reducing losses from fungous diseases are to improve as much as practicable the conditions of growth of the vines. Where old bogs are renewed or new ones planted the most improved methods of drainage, irrigation and clean cultivation should be practiced and special attention given to the selection of the most vigorous, hardy and disease-free plants.

Dr. Stevens is going to write you in regard to some questions relating to climatic conditions and their relation to disease and keeping quality.

Regretting that we can be of no more service to you in this connection and wishing you a very pleasant and profitable meeting, I remain

Very truly yours,  
C. L. Shear  
Pathologist

December 9, 1921

Mrs. S. N. Whittlesey,  
Cranmoor, Wisconsin.  
Dear Mrs. Whittlesey:

Most papers read at your meeting are designed to give information to your members. Would you be willing to read a letter which merely asks information from your members?

For the past six months I have been at work on a study of the possible relation of weather conditions during the growing season to the keeping quality of the cranberry crop. Of course you will readily understand that on so complex a problem one does not progress very fast, nor reach at once any very definite conclusions. However I have hopes that eventually we may get results of interest and value.

So far this study has been confined to Cape Cod because that seemed to be the only locality where printed records of the keeping quality of the crop were available. In order to include Wisconsin, we must have reliable data as to the keeping quality of the crop there for a number of years, and to ask for this information is the purpose of this letter.

What we need is information regarding the keeping quality of the cranberry crop, without reference to the size of the crop or market conditions. Probably there will be years in which the crop was not conspicuously good or bad. On the other hand there must have been seasons which stand out as having had particularly sound crops and others in which there was an unusual amount of trouble from rot.

Could you help us out in this matter to the extend of finding out, particularly from your more experienced members what they regard as conspicuously bad years as regards keeping quality. If you would be willing to take the time at your January meeting you might ask the members to list what they considered the two or three best and the two or three worst years in the last ten or fifteen years. Then check up and see how they agreed and give us the result. It may be that some of your members have diaries or other written records.

These of course are apt to be more reliable than anyone's memory.

Any information of this kind which you can get for us will be much appreciated and will, we hope, eventually make this work of interest and value to you.

With best personal regards and good wishes for a successful meeting, I am

Yours very truly,  
Neil E. Stevens,  
Pathologist.

## DISCUSSIONS

**Andrew Bissig:**—Told of the 1912 season which he recollected as a damp growing season, saying that there was a great deal of trouble with the keeping quality of the berries that fall. He could not adjust differences between buyer and seller fast enough, 10 cars at a time being rejected at various places. He has some records of the season that are available.

**F. R. Barber:**—Told of hail injury and its bad effect on the keeping quality.

**A. Searls:**—Could recollect no bad year in particular except one year when his berries had been improperly handled.

President Searls called for reports by growers from the various districts.

**Jacob Searls:**—Reported a poor budding in the fall of 1920. 1921 crop short by 25 per cent., caused by the dry and hot weather of the summer. The blight was heavy and the tip worm was apparently the cause of much trouble.

**F. R. Barber:**—1920 fall budding good, but 1921 crop only 25 per cent normal. No frost damage during the season, but tip worm and fruit worm were the main causes of the shortage, also hurt by extremely hot and dry weather, which always seems to be favorable to the fruit worm.

**A. Searls:**—Speaking of the Phillips bog; the vines had never been resanded since they were planted and in 1921 the crop was light and the vines appeared weak. One half inch of sand was applied during the following winter and the winter flood allowed to drain as the ice melted. The bog was weeded of certain grasses in April and reflooded for 10 days in May. The vines showed development of fruit buds during April. The bloom was fine and 4500 bbls. were harvested.

**Roy Potter:**—Believes in sanding old bogs to renew vitality and shorten vine. 1921 crop good, but short of the prospect. Lost a few by frost but laid the general shortage to the unfavorable weather. The budding in the fall of 1921 good.

**C. L. Lewis, Jr.:**—1921 crop good following a light crop in 1920. 1920 shortage mainly due to a poor budding. He is an advocate of pruning and resanding, which he believes greatly strengthens the vitality and productiveness of the vine. Believes there is a danger of winter injury in the northern districts in November and December if the bog is not protected, that is, if certain unfavorable weather conditions prevail. 1921 crop very uneven, one four acre piece averaged 104 bbls. per acre, while a 19 acre piece averaged only 25 bbls. per acre. Believes that by improved drainage on the 19 acre piece that the production can be raised. 1921 fall budding good.

**Oscar Potter:**—Good crop in 1920. Fine bloom in 1921 but nothing to harvest. Thinks that weather was the main cause, also considerable fruit worm damage.