Had first raspberry picking June 25th, which was some nine days earlier than usual.

Finished strawberry picking June 28th.
From this time till July 31st, weather was very dry, hot and smoky. Even currants became badly shriveled and scalded.

July 21st saw last picking of raspberries. The blackberry crop was nearly a complete failure on account of drought.

Grapes produced a fair crop but not as large as was hoped for.

The apple crop in our section was the largest in years, and those who sprayed were rewarded with much nice, perfect fruit. Indeed one grower stated that his apples were better than any he saw shipped in from Michigan and New York.

Newly set strawberry beds where well tended, managed to nearly hold their own till the continuous fall rains came, when they made a fine growth.

As some are planting dwarf juneberries it may be well to speak of them. Last season the bushes were heavily loaded and a fine crop was harvested where completely covered with mosquito netting. Without this protection the robins get the crop.

This berry is not well enough known to make it a profitable market berry:

Although the various kinds of fruit were cut short, the prices were better than if a full crop had been harvested, and thus the deficiency was partially made up.

The indications for 1895 are favorable for a good fruit crop, as the moist, late fall allowed time for fruit buds to mature and wood to ripen.

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OBSERVATIONS IN MONROE COUNTY.

J. J. Menn, Norwalk.

The past season has been the most unfavorable one that we have ever experienced in the south part of the county. March was very warm. Flowers were in bloom on the south side of
hills, those that are called "Easter flowers;" fruit buds swelled and all prospects were for an early spring, but April was colder than March.

Fruit trees were not damaged by mice nor rabbits during the winter and the prospect was good for a full crop of apples. Small fruit wintered splendidly. We uncovered blackberries and raspberries April 24th, one week earlier than in 1893. Fruit trees bloomed earlier than they did in '93. The fore part of May was very favorable for small fruit and the orchard; the latter part of the month, cold nights with frost set in, and strawberries that were in full bloom the last week in May had to be covered with hay to save them. Of the Warfield and Michel that were not covered, the latter nearly all froze; the Warfields by the side of them were seventy-five per cent. better.

Blackberries and raspberries were not injured by the frost, but the apple crop was. At first I thought it was not the frost, but later I found that it was.

The prospect was good for the small fruit crop, but the drought set in in June and continued through the summer unbroken with the exception of two showers; the ground had become so dry that they only revived vegetation for a short time.

Strawberries promised a large crop, the first pickings were of good size and found ready sale at $1.60 per crate of sixteen quarts. After five or six days' picking they all dried up, and the foliage looked as if it had been scorched, and in fact it had, by the hot sun and winds.

The new settings were badly injured through the summer, except where they were on very low land and had moisture, there they did well. When winter set in they looked poorly and the prospects are not very bright for the crop of 1895.

Red raspberries did better than we expected. Where they were heavily mulched after having been uncovered in the spring they gave a fair yield of medium sized berries which brought $1.60 per case, and the home demand was good at that price. Blackberries were nearly a total failure; the canes were loaded with fruit, but could not obtain moisture enough
to develop it, and it dried before ripening. New canes made a good growth in the fall and we may expect a good crop this year.

Plums, both cultivated and wild, were a good crop. Cherries were a light crop. Grapes poor. The apple crop was better than we anticipated in the spring. My crop was of a better quality than in 1893. I had no insects, but the fruit did not seem to keep as well as in former years. Some orchards had to be sprayed to save the crop. Early apples sold at fifty to seventy-five cents per bushel; fall and winter apples at one dollar, with a good demand at that price. Many newly planted trees died, even some that were mulched; where the soil was kept loose and mellow they lived through, but made very little growth. Trees grew late in the season. How they will come through the winter is hard to tell.

The ground is very dry and is frozen very deep, but fortunately the weather was not very cold up to January 15th; at the present writing, January 28th, it was 30 degrees below zero.

A good many of the new Russian varieties have been planted, also the Northwestern Greening. Farmers are learning that it is cheaper to raise the fruit than to buy it, and are taking more interest in tree planting. Blight affected trees more or less during the summer.

I have noticed that those orchards that have been kept clean from weeds and June grass, and have been given a good top dressing of barn-yard manure bore the best fruit, and will as long as they are taken care of in this way. While, on the other hand, those orchards that were sod-bound with June grass so it would shed water under the trees, like the roof of a house, looked very poorly, and more so in a dry season, the fruit was small and wormy, and the trees had a sickly appearance.

The highest temperature observed by me was 107 degrees in the shade, with hot winds from the south as if coming from a furnace.

In this locality we had frost every month of the year, not very heavy in July, but heavy enough so that grass turned white on low ground.