OUR NATIVE WILD FRUITS.

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[For the Wisconsin Horticulturist.]

The chief aim of our cranberry association is to develop and improve the native wild cranberry.

I would like very much to see some organization take up the native plum and develop it. This should be done through an organization, because the life of one man is too limited in capacity and time to accomplish much, and it is a work that if worth beginning at all should be continued as long as the fruit is cultivated.

The same could be said of our native blueberry, in fact of the whole genus VACCINIUM.

I believe our native wild strawberry could be made the
foundation of a better strawberry than any now in existence.

We have gathered in and planted at our cranberry experimental station cranberries from all parts of the north cold zone. We at first looked for great gains and superiority in the "foreigners," but we have come to believe that the native Wisconsin cranberry will in the end surpass all others.

Grand Rapids, Wis.

**FERN CULTURE.**

It is better to begin with young plants, says Vick's Monthly. Be careful not to overpot them. Wash the inside of the pots clean and give especially good drainage. Use open, rich, fibrous soil, light rather than heavy, and instead of filling the pot with soil to the brim leave plenty of room to hold water. Ferns should never get quite dry at the root, yet it will not do to keep them soaking wet. Many of them, especially the maidenhair and gold and silver ferns, dislike being splashed overhead, and hot sunshine must never fall directly upon these delicate kinds. Ferns are sure to be killed by little dribblings of water given every day. The same rule that applies to watering other plants is good with ferns. When the top of the soil looks dry, fill the pot with water to the brim, so that all the ball of soil may have a thorough soaking. It is not best to set ferns in a draft of either warm or cold air.

There is no need to keep ferns in the house all summer, though many people do it. They thrive better outside on the piazza or other sheltered spot, provided the owner will not forget to water them.

An old fern that has filled the pot full of roots may be repotted at any time except in fall. Repotting at this season would interfere with the partial rest which most ferns like to take at this season. With plentiful watering one