

Finally, if a person propagates plants for his own use he will become a keener observer of the characteristics of the plants with which he is dealing. He is obliged to look into the details of their make-up and development, and this is conducive to success, not only in the growing of small fruits, but of other crops as well.

I have touched upon only a few of the factors which, to my mind, influence the degree of success to be attained in the management of a plantation for small fruits. In some instances I may have drawn defective conclusions, but I believe that most of the things I have mentioned are worthy of our consideration.

THE DOOR COUNTY FRUIT DISTRICT.

A. L. HATCH, Sturgeon Bay.

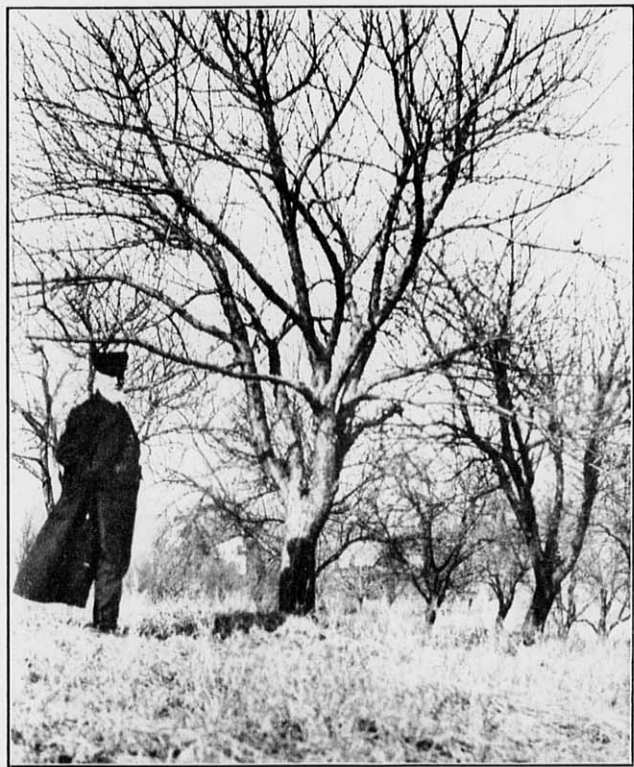
The continued success of fruit culture at Sturgeon Bay is now attracting considerable attention. Especially is this true of cherry culture, which is expanding rapidly. In common with most of the Door county peninsula this region has some advantages for the growth of several fruits which have been demonstrated to be very valuable and reliable for every season. In fruit culture, as in every other business, success depends upon certainty of returns. Where conditions favor full crops every year and where the fruit develops to perfection, and where it has perfect shipping qualities, there exists the foundation for profitable commercial fruit growing. And when these conditions are supplemented with good shipping and marketing conditions, and when the business is already well established for co-operation among growers, there exists still further advantages.

In all of these the Sturgeon Bay region is especially fortunate. The first planting of fruit trees in considerable quantities were made about fifty years ago and during all those years there is no record of a loss of bloom by spring frosts. This is a record assuring a greater certainty of crops than is found elsewhere in most of the so-called fruit regions.

We have at Sturgeon Bay a cool spring long drawn out that prevents such early bloom, and gives fruit trees a chance to make a strong recuperative start of buds and bloom that has



Wealthy, orchard L. H. Palmer, Baraboo, planted spring of 1900, bore 1 barrel choice No. 1 apples in 1907 and heavy crop, 1909.



Fameuse, orchard of J. S. Palmer, Baraboo, age 25 years. Cultivation, alternate clover sod and cropping with corn followed by oats. Heavily manured every 3 or 4 years. Four hundred similar trees bore 1000 barrels, 1909. (See Rep. of Sec.)

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great capacity to endure frost if it should occur. Not only is the bloom thus made hardy but the severest cold to which trees are subjected is abated in such a way that no injury results. These conditions are brought about by the influence of the lake and bay water upon the climate. And these influences are permanent and reliable—something to be always counted on as a factor in fruit culture here.

Another asset of this water influence upon the climate is its effect upon the character and quality of the fruit itself. This is very markedly shown in the keeping and shipping quality of the fruit grown here. Never subjected to the long continued and high temperatures of regions south and inland the fruit of all kinds has a firmer and better texture usually that adds very much to its life and capacity to endure shipment without hurt. Of all the cherries, for instance, that I have grown here, amounting to several thousand bushels, I do not remember any loss from failure to hold up in shipment. Any variety of apple that we grow will keep much longer than the same variety grown elsewhere in Wisconsin. Not only can we end the market with Duchess and Wealthy when others have done, but we can furnish such sorts as Snow apples in fine condition well into winter. And still more we have some kinds that will keep till spring as sound as desired. These facts point to a fine field of profitable apple culture that is now beginning to attract some attention.

The soils of Door county peninsula are founded upon Niagara limestone. Both in the pine and hardwood region it is a very valuable factor for fruit growing. When properly selected especially with reference to depth above the bed rock, subsoil and exposure, it ranks well with that of any other region. Here clover and all grasses thrive finely, assuring the conditions to secure desired humus and soil enrichment.

The first commercial planting of the cherry was made in 1896-8 by myself and the late Prof. E. S. Goff of Madison, Wis. In the latter year I induced Mr. A. W. Lawrence to plant five acres and from the success of these and other orchards the possibility of very profitable cherry growing has been fully demonstrated. Ever since the trees were large enough to bear they have borne paying crops, the combined crop of last season amounting to over seven thousand crates or about 13 carloads. For a series of five or six years the average net returns would capitalize the land at over \$3,000 per acre. There is promise of some younger

orchards doing better than this for in the case of my own orchard it should be understood that in it I have tried out several varieties that were unprofitable. I also made some mistakes of planting and management that are now being avoided by later planters. It is a pleasure to know that many younger men are now engaged in a broader and stronger development of this splendid industry.

NOTES ON GARDENING.

BLANCHARD HARPER.

A Protecting Screen.

The idea is not original, none of mine are, merely adaptive, or adopting—I can not remember where I read it originally, but as I use it, it is as follows:

Get a number of heavy pieces of galvanized iron wire, Nos. 10 or 12, I think, cut into four feet lengths, then procure a number of yards of "tobacco" (i. e., that used to screen tobacco plants) cheese cloth, in which tucks half an inch deep are run, at intervals of seven and a half feet. Run a wire through each tuck so that six inches projects beyond the cloth on each side to be stuck in the ground. In case of a high wind it is advisable to pin the windward side to the ground between the hoops. I use mine as a protection against spring and autumn frosts, summer sun, and when watering a favorite row during a drouth. It enables me to lengthen the season of tender vegetables about six weeks every year. In the autumn, when the snow flies, I have the cheese cloth washed and use it year after year, and have done so for three years. I have also light frames fitting in place of my cold frame sash covered with cheese cloth, instead of being filled with glass, which I use to start young seedling in hot summer weather. It is a great protection also against a burning summer wind, or a beating rain. I always remove it at night in hot weather and replace it in the morning as long as needed, and in cold weather, put it on at night and take it off when the sun shines. It is particularly useful in transplanting young lettuce, asters, endive, celery, etc. Try it!