

HORTICULTURE IN MICHIGAN

By H. J. EUSTACE,
PROFESSOR OF HORTICULTURE, M.A.C.



STRAWBERRIES THAT MADE RETURNS OF OVER \$700 PER ACRE.

From "Michigan—the Land of Plenty."

MICHIGAN is pre-eminently a horticultural state. Its many regions of soil adapted to fruit-plant production and the proximity of these regions to large bodies of water and short shipping distances to some of the best and best markets in the world, attest to its horticultural importance.

Apples. Apples and peaches are the most important commercial fruit crops. The opportunities for the culture of both of these crops are very attractive. In great many parts of the southern portion of the state are to be found old apple orchards of various size that offer splendid opportunities for men with a limited capital to rent or secure a share basis for a series of years and by applying the modern scientific care and attention, a profit may be realized in a year or two when it would require 10, 15 or 18 years to achieve it one had to plant out the trees and wait for them to bear. Frequently this business of renting orchards is carried on while young orchards are being established.

Peaches. The business now requires more skill and ability than it did in the "Bonanza" days, but with intelligent work and good judgment a peach orchard is an excellent piece of farm property. In Special Bulletin 63 of the Michigan Experiment Station may be found the facts and figures on the results that have actually been secured in this work of rejuvenating or improving old orchards.

Peach growing has, for a great many years, been a very important fruit industry, especially in the western part of the state bordering upon Lake Michigan. The business now requires more skill and ability than it did in the "Bonanza" days, but with intelligent work and good judgment a peach orchard is an excellent piece of farm property. In Special Bulletin 63 of the Michigan Experiment Station may be found the facts and figures on the results that have actually been secured in this work of rejuvenating or improving old orchards.

Cherries. Cherry raising is becoming a very large and important fruit industry in certain parts of the state, notably in the Grand Traverse region. Very large orchards are found in that region as well as for some distance south even as far as Oceana county. Very large orchards of both sweet and sour cherries are flourishing; and in certain parts of the upper peninsula large orchards have recently been put out. More of the varieties of sweet cherries than sweet cherries have been started and the demand for sour cherries from canning factories indicate that they can use a great many more in the future. The sweet cherries demand extra care and skill and the best shipping facilities to handle them properly and their culture should not be attempted by anyone until they have had some experience in fruit growing.

Pears and Plums. Pears and plums are grown successfully in all the important fruit regions of the state. Some very old pear trees are located in the eastern part of the state. The culture of pears demands a fairly strong, heavy soil whereas peaches and sour cherries will flourish on the lighter soils and plum and prune culture should be confined to regions where these crops be transported very quickly after picking.

Small Fruits. The profits from small fruits are fully equal to those from tree fruits.

RIGHT HEIGHT FOR PERCHES Eighteen inches to Two Feet is About Right—Have Plenty of Space Between the Perches.

Perches should not be placed more than two feet from the floor of the cooping house; indeed, for the heavier breeds of fowls 18 inches will be quite high enough. They should be placed far enough apart to allow the birds to descend from them with ease. Perches placed too high are likely

to cause bumble foot, and they are sure a very serious ailment in laying hens. The fowl roosting in a high tree has a better chance of descending in safety to the earth than has the bird whose perch is placed high in a poultry house. The former has space in which to perform a gradual descent, while the latter is forced to descend in a more perpendicular manner.

Let the perches be placed as recommended above, and have them all on one level, for when they are placed at varying heights the birds make a habit of flying to the highest one, with the result that quarrelling and over-crowding take place. To roost high seems to be the natural instinct of all fowls, but for their own safety they should be under the control of their owner—Farmer's Review.

Lack of Mineral Supply. Frequently abortion attacks a herd of dairy cows because the feeds do not contain sufficient mineral matter.

Plan for Shipping Eggs. Always ship eggs in baskets or cartons made for the purpose, and never in dirty old boxes, packed in sawdust or bran.

formation is available in Michigan Experiment Station Special Bulletin No. 67.

Potatoes. The potato is grown in nearly every part of the state and with splendid success. Very definite steps have been taken to increase the quality of the product and to increase the yield by better methods of culture, fertilizers, superior seed. It is one of the standard crops of the state. Detailed information may be had in Michigan Experiment Station Circular No. 15.

Cucumbers. The cucumber crop, one of far more importance in the state of Michigan than it is generally supposed. Some of the largest preserving companies have many salting stations within the state and the culture of the cucumber affords a very attractive field for the beginner in fruit growing. The crop is known as a quick cash crop for the reason that by mismanagement the returns are available all the money is readily realized from the crop. The culture of cucumbers for pickles does not require expensive outlay for tools and it is a crop that will be very greatly increased in the near future. The Michigan Experiment Station has a good circular, No. 19, upon the culture of this crop.

Celery. The celery crop in certain regions of the state is world known. Notable is the Kalamazoo region. This crop is particularly about the kind of soil but does not require expensive tools and one will be able to start in with the culture of this vegetable without very much capital. Full directions are given in Michigan Experiment Station Special Bulletin No. 60.

Onion Crop. The onion crop offers a way to utilize a great deal of the new lands of Michigan which now can be purchased for a reasonable price and after being put in condition it is demonstrated that they will produce good crops of onions and will increase in value very rapidly. The expense of growing the crop is not a great one and it will afford work for all of the family. In pounds generally command the best prices.

Any good poultry raiser can do his own canning. Canning eggs can be done for two and one-half to three dollars. Full directions accompany each set. With a little care and time the canning can be done easily and pays well. Capons need plenty of green stuff, good grit, fresh water and charcoal. To fatten them feed heavily twice a day. Cornmeal, oatmeal and Graham flour mixed with melted tallow and skimmed milk is a good ration for producing flesh.

Fatten Turkeys for Christmas. To fatten the turkeys for the Christmas market, feed whole corn at night and give them all they will eat of other fattening foods in the daytime with plenty of clean water.

Pick Peaches When Mature. Pick peaches when they are mature but not soft; handle them as if they were eggs, and haul them on wagons equipped with bolt-springs.

Any level, for when they are placed at varying heights the birds make a habit of flying to the highest one, with the result that quarrelling and over-crowding take place. To roost high seems to be the natural instinct of all fowls, but for their own safety they should be under the control of their owner—Farmer's Review.

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INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course, the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 3

ELIJAH IN NABOTH'S VINEYARD.

LESSON TEXT—1 Kings 21:1-26. GOLDEN TEXT—1 Kings 21:1-26. And thou shalt see that the Lord is with thee.

Ahab disobeyed God and failed to follow up his victory over Ben-Hadad (ch. 20:31-34). Thereupon one of the prophets resorted to a plan whereby Ahab was rebuked and also received a message that sent him "to his house heavy and displeased" (v. 43). All of this needs to be borne in mind when we study Ahab's course of action related in this lesson. Learn by heart the tenth commandment; also Luke 12:15.

I. The Scheme of Men, vv. 11-16. Ahab had been king for twenty years (B. C. 907). Jezebel was his summer capital, about twenty miles northwest of Samaria. The chief actors in this tragedy were Naboth, a well-to-do citizen; Ahab, a petulant monarch to whom Naboth refused to sell his vineyard; Jezebel, the Lady Macbeth of Ahab's court; elders and nobles of Jezebel, willing tools in the transaction; false witnesses, executioner, and Elijah, the servant of God, who confronted the monarch with his newly gained possession. Ahab was constantly in conflict with the purposes of God and with his Word. Naboth had no right to sell his vineyard (see Numbers 35:7; Lev. 25:23; also Eccl. 4:13) and he stoutly stood out for his God-given rights. These land laws were rigid, but at the same time wise and beneficial. Instead of yielding to God's law, Ahab asked like a petted child (v. 4) and thus again runs counter to God's Word (see tenth commandment). At this juncture Jezebel, his wife, appeals to his pride and power as the king (v. 7), and offers to procure the coveted possession. The methods of mankind whereby vast possessions are accumulated do not always bear investigation; murder and rapine, broken hearts and shortened years, weakened bodies and stunted children can largely be traced to the sin of covetousness, against which we all need to be on guard (Luke 12:15; Eph. 5:6). The first sinner was covetous (Gen. 3:6) and also were the chosen people of God (Josh. 7:21), and it was this that caused the first dispersion among Christian believers (Acts 5:1-3). Jezebel most graciously gave Ahab that which belonged to others; how free we all can be with the property of others! She also cloaked her designs with the mantle of religion (5:13).

II. The Sentence of God, vv. 17-23. The death of Naboth was happier than his neighbors of Jezebel, the king and queen or any of the other evil participants. Ahab began by breaking the first commandment (1 Kings 16:31; ch. 21:7) and thus laid the groundwork of the whole train of evil for which he and his household and his reign are famous. The elders readily obeyed the word of Jezebel and Ahab, but now he was to hear the Word of God and it was not to be so welcome. Recently we saw Elijah set aside, following his flight from Jezebel, but he is not entirely beyond help and God now gave him a new commission, one more task in connection with his old opponent. There is nothing indicating cowardice in Elijah's bold challenge of Ahab and there is also a suggestion of a guilty conscience in Ahab's exclamation, "Hast thou found me, O mine enemy" (v. 20)? Ahab had "gone down to the vineyard of Naboth" (v. 18) to enjoy the fruits of his sin, and now he is to be a poor exchange Ahab made (Mark 8:37), a throne and his life in exchange for the carrying out his own will and the possession of a vineyard. In that exact spot where Naboth had been fully stoned the dogs would lick up the blood of the king. As is usually the case, the guilty dispenser called the righteous servant of God his "enemy," yet had Ahab obeyed the Word of Jehovah as so frequently spoken by Elijah he would have discovered him to be his true and best friend, not his enemy. Ahab's sin had found him out (Golden Text, Num. 32:23).

III. The Summary. Covetousness is not the mere desire for things we do not possess, but a deep longing which is willing to do wrong, to injure others, to profit by the evil deeds of others in order to come into possession. Covetousness seeks to gain at the expense of higher and better things; it is the extreme opposite of the spirit of him who "gave all." The greatest danger of our land and the chief source of sin is covetousness. The source and fountain of covetousness is selfishness. Hence the one and only cure is in a changed heart, one consecrated to God and devoted to the service of others. Love God, obey his Word, strive with all our ransomed powers to build up and advance his kingdom and covetousness will vanish as must be for the summer sun. Covetousness is insatiable. It is never satisfied. It is like the drug habit, it grows by leaps and bounds. It is idolatry, effectually shutting us out of the kingdom.

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No Cause for Alarm.

A young preacher who was staying at a clergy house was in the habit of retiring to his room for an hour or more each day to practice pulpit oratory. At such times he filled the house with sound of terror and pathos and emptied it of almost everything else. A well-known bishop happened to be visiting a friend in the house one day when the budding orator was holding forth.

"Gracious me!" exclaimed the bishop, starting up in assumed terror, "pray, what might that be?"

"Sit down, bishop," his friend replied. "That's only your D— practicing what he preaches."

Saving 'Em.

"The old saying about true love never runs smooth wasn't true in their case. They never had a single quarrel during their engagement."

"No, they were saving them all up for their honeymoon."

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