

Strawberry Planting Getting Head Start

By DOUG KIRK PATRICK
Horticulturist
P.E.I. Dept. of Agriculture

Strawberry growers in various parts of the Province are getting a head start on spring planting this year. This past week has seen a few of them setting out their new plantations, due to the earliness of the season. There is very little chance of any of these plants being damaged by cold weather since strawberry plants are really quite hardy. Temperatures below 15 degrees F. will damage the crowns, but that will be the extent of the damage. Most Island strawberry growers believe in setting their plants as early as possible, so they get more runners, which means increased yields in the following year.

A good rule to follow is to set your new plants as early as you can, but not before the ground has warmed up to at least 40 degrees F. This is a good rule to follow in any year, but especially in a dry season, so it is well worth considering where possible.

The strawberry is the most important fruit crop grown on Prince Edward Island. Our yearly production averages around 1,750,000 quarts, but due to a good demand for both the fresh market and for processing, we should be producing 45,000,000 quarts per year. We can grow strawberries as well and as cheaply as any other Province in Canada. There are two things a strawberry grower should try to achieve: grow at least 3 acres and get at least 8,000 quarts per acre. A grower should expect yields upwards of 10,000 quarts per acre from new plantations.

that is, in the first picking year. Of course, he must use good, healthy plants of the newer varieties, keep them clean, fertilize them properly and follow a rigid disease and insect control program.

LAND PREPARATION

Strawberries will thrive on a great variety of soils, from a very light sand to a heavy clay, but a moderately light soil is preferred. The soil should be well cultivated during the year previous to planting and should be well worked and levelled before planting. Strawberries may follow a hoed crop or grain, but should never follow grass sod because of the danger of white grub and also because there will be more weeds and grass to contend with.

Another thing a grower might consider when selecting land to grow strawberries is its closeness to a source of fresh water. If we experience a dry season again this year, installing an irrigation system will be much cheaper and easier if the plantation is close to an adequate supply of fresh water. It has been suggested that an irrigation system may pay for itself in a dry season, so it is well worth considering where possible.

FERTILIZING

The first thing you should do before growing a crop is to take a soil sample of the field in the fall, and have it tested at the Provincial Soil Testing Laboratory. This is situated at the Experimental Farm in Charlottetown and is a free service provided by the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture.

If this has not been done, a general guide is as follows: when manure is available, apply 20-25 tons per acre in the fall and plow down or work into the soil, then in the spring two weeks before planting, apply 1,000 lbs. of 6-12-12 fertilizer per acre and work in. If manure is not applied, 1,500 to 2,000 lbs. of 6-12-12 per acre should be used. In addition to the fertilizer put on before planting, side dress with 80-100 lbs. of Ammonium Nitrate per acre, around the 25th of June and the 25th of August.

The purpose of this added application of nitrogen is to increase plant growth and runner formation, which leads to increased yields the following year.

NOTE: All blossoms should be removed during the first year to promote runner growth.

PLANTING

As mentioned before, plant as soon as possible and use only the best plants. Beware of Black Rooted Plants and Destroy them.

Them. Plants should be set so the crowns are level with the surface of the ground. The roots should be spread out and down and firmly packed with soil. Also, plants should be kept moist at all times during the planting operation. Plants should be set 1 1/2 feet apart in the row, and rows four feet apart. This means you need 7,260 plants per acre.

If a grower has good plants of his own, there is no advantage in securing them elsewhere, but if you do not have good, healthy plants, get them from the best source. In this regard, several growers are propagating disease free stock under the supervision of the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture. These men are:

Parker Jewell—York — Sparkle
Catskill
Louis Jenkins—Lower Montague — Sparkle, Redcoat, Cavalier, Genadier
George Wright—Norwood Road—Sherwood — Sparkle, Redcoat, Cavalier
With these plants and proper management and fertility a grower should expect a yield of at least 10,000 quarts per acre in the first picking year.

VARIETIES

The following are the recommended varieties for P.E.I. for 1966.

Early—Cavalier
Mid-Season—Redcoat, Grenadier, Acadia
Late—Sparkle
CAVALIER — it runs well, is very vigorous, and is a good yielder. The berries are of good size, bright red, glossy, firm and have excellent flavor. Cavalier is also a good berry for processing, as well as being our earliest variety. It is, however, more susceptible to disease than are the other varieties.

REDCOAT — it's fruit are large, firm and very attractive. It is one of the best yielders and is excellent for both the fresh market and for processing.

GRENADIER — another excellent variety for the fresh market and for processing. The fruit are large, very firm and dark red in color. It is also a very good yielder.

ACADIA — a new variety. It was developed at Kentville, N.S. and has been tested in Charlottetown for the past three years. It is very vigorous, runs well and the fruit are medium sized, very vigorous, and is a good attractive and quite firm. It is as good as Grenadier or Redcoat for the fresh market as well as for processing.

Get the Best... the "SUZUKI"



- Low Down Payment
- Easy Terms

THE BIKE SHOP
and SPORT LODGE

GT. GEORGE ST. DIAL 4-6741

walk a block and save!



SHOE SHOPPE

Palmer Electric Bldg.
Dial 4-6075

size, bright red, glossy, firm and have excellent flavor. Cavalier is also a good berry for processing, as well as being our earliest variety. It is, however, more susceptible to disease than are the other varieties.

REDCOAT — it's fruit are large, firm and very attractive. It is one of the best yielders and is excellent for both the fresh market and for processing.

GRENADIER — another excellent variety for the fresh market and for processing. The fruit are large, very firm and dark red in color. It is also a very good yielder.

ACADIA — a new variety. It was developed at Kentville, N.S. and has been tested in Charlottetown for the past three years. It is very vigorous, runs well and the fruit are medium sized, very vigorous, and is a good attractive and quite firm. It is as good as Grenadier or Redcoat for the fresh market as well as for processing.

coat for the fresh market as well as for processing.

SPARKLE — it is our latest variety and is excellent for the fresh market. It is difficult to hull, therefore, is not as desirable as the others for processing. It is a good yielder and the fruit is firm, attractive, of excellent quality, and it keeps for a fairly long period of time.

WHAT BOSSES WANT

LONDON (CP)—A new type of secretarial school has opened here, advertising that it teaches what the boss really wants. Students learn hair and make-up care, department, cookery, flower arrangement, dancing and interior decorating as well as shorthand and typing.

Doug Kilpatrick, Horticulturist, P.E.I. Department of Agriculture, Box 2000, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETINGS

Ratepayers and all persons entitled to vote at school meetings are hereby notified that the Annual School Meetings of each district in the Province will be held, as required by law on

Tuesday, June 7th, 1966 at 8.00 p.m.

Who May Vote at These Meetings

1. Every person who, or whose husband or wife, is a ratepayer in the district, and who, and whose husband or wife, has paid in full all district school rates and taxes imposed upon him, may vote at any school meeting on any question.
3. Every woman residing in the district and being the mother, step-mother or adoptive mother of a child of school age residing with her and in actual attendance at the school of the district, shall be a qualified voter at all school meetings and shall be eligible for election as a trustee unless she shall be in arrears of school taxes assessed against her.

—Section 27 of the School Act.

The Order of Business is detailed in Section 28 of the School Act.

Letters from the Department of Education and the Superintendents of Schools have been sent to School Board Secretaries and should be read at these meetings.

Districts that are not now included in a regular high school unit must apply to the Department of Education if they wish to join a unit. Requests will be passed to the Boundaries Commission who will determine the unit that a district may join. A special meeting of the ratepayers may then be called by the Department of Education for the purpose of voting on the question of joining the unit designated by the Boundaries Commission.

EVANGELINE SCHOOL UNIT

The annual meeting of Evangeline School Unit will be held in the Regional High School, Abram's Village, on Tuesday, June 7, 1966 at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting will be concerned with business pertaining to the administration of both Regional High School and the Elementary Schools.

M. MacKenzie
Deputy Minister and
Chief Director of Education

Department of Education
Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island

CFCY RADIO

YOUR LIBERAL CANDIDATES

MONDAY

10:15 a.m. Elmer Blanchard
6:10 p.m. Ed Brown
6:25 p.m. Frank Sigsworth

TUESDAY

10:15 a.m. Gordon Bennett
6:10 p.m. Sinclair Cutcliffe
6:55 p.m. Lorne Moase

LIBERAL



Liberal Leader
ALEX CAMPBELL

the man and the team . . .

1st KING'S		2nd KING'S		3rd KING'S		4th KING'S		5th KING'S			
William Acorn	Daniel MacDonald	Frank Sigsworth	Donald Anderson	Dr. Douglas MacDonald	Louis Roper	Dr. Lorne Bonnell	Keir Clark	George Ferguson	Arthur J. MacDonald		
1st QUEEN'S		2nd QUEEN'S		3rd QUEEN'S		4th QUEEN'S		5th QUEEN'S		6th QUEEN'S	
Mrs. Jean Canfield	Lorne Moase	Sinclair Cutcliffe	Horace Willis	Eugene Cullen	Cecil Miller	Stewart Ross	Harold P. Smith	Elmer Blanchard	Gordon Bennett	Edward Brown	Mrs. B. Earle MacDonald
1st PRINCE		2nd PRINCE		3rd PRINCE		4th PRINCE		5th PRINCE			
Prosper A. Arseneault	Robert Campbell	Neil R. MacLeod	Douglas Adams	W. H. Burns	Leonce Arsenault	Frank Jardine	Max Thompson	Alex B. Campbell	T. Earl Nickey		

HERE IS THE ABILITY, DRIVE AND EXPERIENCE FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT

The men and women shown here will work to put into effect the Liberal Program of Action. This program includes the greatest emphasis put on agriculture in Island history . . . Industrial development . . . Plans for school-tax relief . . . for \$100 a month to senior citizens . . . for free medical care for all . . . for better labour laws and a higher minimum wage with extended coverage . . . for Modern Housing, and for a better Island future.

One of the strongest teams of candidates ever assembled by a political party on Prince Edward Island is working with Alex Campbell, the Liberal leader. Men and women of outstanding ability and knowledge—in the field of agriculture, labour, social welfare and medicare, provincial finance and governmental efficiency, in fisheries, in housing and industrial development—are ready to form a strong government.

FOR ACTION, LEADERSHIP, EXCELLENCE

VOTE LIBERAL

FOR RESOURCEFUL RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Inscribed by the P.E.I. Liberal Association