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N. W. AYER & SON

BLUEBERRY MAY NOW BE PLACED IN GARDEN

DISCOVERY OF SOIL REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN MADE AS RESULT OF EXPERIMENTS.

Washington, March 26.—It is now possible for almost anyone to cultivate in the home garden the once exclusively wild blueberry.

This has been made possible through the discovery of the berry's special requirements through the experimental scientific work of Dr. F. V. Coville, of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the practical cultural methods developed, in conjunction with the department, by Miss Elizabeth C. White on the cranberry property of her father at Whitesbog, N. J.

The spring planting season may make some of the now available information of interest to the home gardener.

These experiments have shown that blueberries prefer a light, sandy, acid soil containing an abundance of partially rotted vegetable matter or peat. If natural blueberry soil is not available, your garden may easily be prepared by mixing with the surface soil a liberal quantity of partially rotted leaves, pine needles, sawdust or chip dirt from an old wood pile. If the soil is clay, the addition of some sand will benefit it.

The highbush blueberry, which is the kind that is usually cultivated, loves an abundance of moisture. If the bushes must be planted in a dry location, a four-inch mulch of leaves, sawdust, lawn clippings, or other loose material should be placed around them. Such a mulch will conserve the moisture in the soil and keep the soil cool. This mulch should be left on the year around and fresh material added every year. During extended periods of dry weather an occasional thorough watering will be very beneficial.

For the commercial culture of blueberries, a soil which naturally suits them should be selected. The commercial fields plants so far have been in an acid, peat or muck soil that stays moist throughout the growing season. A soil containing some sand is to be preferred. Land on which wild highbush blueberries are growing vigorously is undoubtedly suited to the cultivated varieties. In many parts of the country land suitable for blueberries is now lying waste and may be purchased cheaply.

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