

FARM DEPARTMENT

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Grow Blueberries.

An Indiana man has 8½ acres planted in blueberries, which is said by F. V. Coville, of the United States Department of Agriculture, to be the largest plantation of this fruit in the United States. According to farmers of that vicinity this small area has proven more profitable than any 80-acre farm in that community.

One peculiarity of this berry is that it requires an acid soil, the very element so prominent in our soils and will thrive well where our ordinary crops are practically a failure on account of an excess of this tart condition. This berry is native to Clay county and formerly grew uncultivated along high banks of Eel river. It is no more than profitable that some may yet be found growing along the highest grounds known as Rhoads' Bluff.

R. J. Otten says that the high bush blueberries may be planted in rows 8 feet apart and at a distance of 4 feet in the row. It is thought that 8 by 8 is the proper planting distance but 8 by 4 gives greater yields in the first years which would more than pay for the bushes set temporarily. If planted as close as 4 by 4 the tops will interlock within a few years and cause trouble in picking and cultivating besides checking the growth of the bushes.

In order to keep the plantation clean the new site should be plowed and cultivated for a year before the bushes are set. Leaves should be added plentifully each year to keep up the soil acidity, to provide plant food and to make possible good aeration of the soil. Cultivation aids in keeping the soil aerated. Five hundred pounds per acre of a 5-14-4 fertilizer have been used successfully.

The blueberry harvest extends through July and August. In 1920 an eight-year-old planting yield at the rate of 117 bushels per acre, with receipts at the rate of \$1,280 per acre. Even wild plantings have been known to give returns of from \$300 to \$500 per acre. There has always been a ready sale for blueberries and with increase in size and quality a market for all the production is assured.

A good picker in an ordinary day

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