

NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES.

The government asserts at this time that it is possible for almost anyone to raise in his garden the once exclusively wild blueberry. This information is furnished as a result of the work of Dr. F. V. Colville of the federal department of agriculture and methods developed in conjunction with the department by Miss Elizabeth White on a cranberry bog at Whitesbog, N. J. It is added that:—

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 shrubs insist upon moisture and, if they have that and the acid soil already suggested, success may be expected. It is obvious that if berries are raised commercially a soil which naturally suits them should be selected, but land upon which these bushes are found growing vigorously is undoubtedly suited

to the cultivated varieties. In many parts of the country such land is now regarded as of little value.

The interest in this small fruit has developed in the last ten or twelve years as a result of experiments by the United States department of agriculture carried on in New Jersey, where, according to reports, blueberries have been harvested which were near the size of the Clinton grape. Why Massachusetts has not taken hold of the work is beyond understanding.

Connecticut has much land upon which not only the blueberry but the huckleberry as well might be raised at a profit upon land which is now of no great value. Botanists make a sharp distinction between the two fruits, for they regard the huckleberry not as a berry but as something akin to the plum or peach, that is to say, a drupe and not a berry. Both require much the same soil conditions, and it is safe to assume that both would respond promptly to cultivation. Some Connecticut man should find this out for him.

Hartford Conn.
Courant

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