

The Maine Blueberry And Its Cultivation

A purely American crop of growing importance is undoubtedly the cultivated blueberry. It has taken the Federal Department of Agriculture more than ten years to learn the conditions under which it can be successfully grown.

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.

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 planted so far have been in an acid, peat or muck soil that stays moist throughout the growing season. A soil containing sand is to be preferred. Land on which wild highbush blueberries are grown 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.

Lewiston, Me., Journal

June 2, 1923

After 16 years' of experimentation, the United States department of agriculture has established the culture of the blueberry as a commercial industry, and has bred varieties with berries more than three-fourths of an inch in diameter.

Minneapolis, Minn.
Journal
June 3, 1923

Blueberries to fill more than 720,000 cans are picked each year from one field of 150,000 acres in Maine.

Boston Post
June 6, 1923

BLUEBERRIES AN INCH THICK
(From the Scientific American)
A blueberry an inch in diameter is not a dream but a possibility. At the

United States Department of Agriculture testing plantation at Whitesbog, four miles east from Brown Mills, New Jersey, about 25,000 blueberry hybrids have now been fruited. Many of them have produced berries three-fourths of an inch in diameter, several four-fifths of an inch, and one of them this year reached almost seven-eighths of an inch.

Burlington, Va.
Free Press
May 1, 1923

Cincinnati, Ohio
Times-Star
May 5, 1923

Philadelphia Ledger
May 7, 1923

Paterson, N. J.
Call
May 29, 1923

Milwaukee, Wis.
Sentinel
May 1, 1923

Rochester, N. Y.
Post-Express
May 2, 1923.

Worcester, Mass.
Telegram
May 6, 1923

New Haven, Conn.
Jour.-Courier
May 5, 1923

Blueberries an Inch Thick.
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