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N. W. AYER & SON

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NOW POSSIBLE TO CULTIVATE THE BLUEBERRY

Application of Leaves, Pine
Needles and Sawdust Need-
ed to Prepare Soil.

HIGH BUSH SPECIES GROWN

WASHINGTON, March 28.—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 is very beneficial.

For the commercial blueberries, a soil which suits them should be selected. Commercial fields planted have been in an acid, peaty soil that stays moist through the growing season. Adding some sand is to be avoided. Land on which wild highbush berries are growing vigorously is undoubtedly suited to the varieties. In many parts of the country land suitable for blueberries is now lying waste and can be purchased cheaply.

