Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

62.97

ANNALS, APR 95

Nos. 1 to 12.

April, 1893, to March, 1894.

Thayer's Berry Bulletins

Sparta, Wis., 1894.

These Bulletins are Published Monthly, in the Leading Agricultural and Horticultural Periodicals of the United States, by M. A. THAYER, Sparta, Wis.

WHERE WE ARE

Largest Northern Growers of Berries and
.. Berry Plants. ..

Thayer Fruit Farms,

M. A. THAYER, Manager.
C. E. TOBEY, Superintendent.

SPARTA, WIS.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETINS

Nos. 1 to 12.

(APRIL, 1893, TO MARCH, 1894.)

These Bulletins are Published Monthly, in the Leading Agricultural and Horticultural Periodicals of the United States, by M. A. Thayer, Sparta, Wis.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN NO. 1

For April.

In this bulletin, and those which are to follow monthly, it is proposed to give brief, seasonable hints on all topics of special interest to the farmer in his garden or the new grower of berries for market. They will contain the results of experiments with many varieties and give methods of culture most successfully practiced in Wisconsin, where the thermometer often reaches 40 degrees below zero.

While the selection of a location, the quality of soil, the varieties to grow, the manner of setting, trimming, mulching, cultivation, protection and many other things, must be determined largely by circumstances and good judgment, yet there are certain essentials which should not under any circumstances be omitted.

Soil and Preparation.

Select well-drained land on which some hoed crop was grown last season, potato ground being best. The soil should be deeply plowed, enriched with fine manure and harrowed until fine and mellow. Large crops are never produced from poor soil and careless cultivation. Fruit rows long and straight are easily cultivated and kept free from weeds.

Varieties.

Strawberries—Warfield (P), Crescent (P), Haverland (P), Bubach (P), Jessie (S), Michel's Early (S), Capt. Jack (S), Parker Earle (S), Van Deman (S).
Black Raspberries—Nemeha, Palmar, Ohio.

Red Raspberries—Marlboro, Cuthbert, Shaffer's.

Blackberries—Ancient Briton, Snyder.

Currants—Red Dutch, White Grape, Victoria.

Gooseberries—Downing, Houghton.

Grapes—Moore's Early, Worden, Delaware, Brighton, Concord.

Many other varieties are worthy a place in any garden, and some of the newer kinds are very promising.

Selection.

Select plants as carefully as you would seed grain or breeding stock. Select well-tested varieties, such as do

well in your climate and on your particular soil. High-priced novelties in small fruits are generally disappointing; leave them to the professional grower. Never buy poor plants because they are cheap. Strawberry plants from old beds should never be used. Buy plants from a responsible grower. Those grown in special plant beds are best. Order direct from the grower, thereby securing better plants, true to name, and at less price.

Receiving.

Never expose the roots of plants to the sun or wind. When received keep in a cool place until set in the ground. Remove all old leaves, cut back long roots, and broken roots and branches.

Distance.

Strawberries are set in rows forty-two inches apart and two feet in the row. Blackberries and raspberries in rows seven feet apart and three feet in the row. Currants and gooseberries in rows from five to seven feet apart and three to five in the row. Grapes, eight to ten feet each way.

Setting.

Strawberry plants are either pistillate (female) or staminate (male). Every third row should be staminate to insure good fertilization. The roots of all plants should be spread out in their natural position and dirt pressed firmly about them. The crown of the strawberry should be just even with the surface of the ground, neither too deep nor too shallow. Set all plants with care; no work is more important in the fruit garden. Cultivate the ground often and keep free from weeds.

Subscribe liberally for good papers, study their horticultural columns, and notice with care the results of your own work.

—M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

The Thayer Fruit Farms of Sparta, Wis., do not sell cheap or worthless plants, but the best at reasonable prices.

Send for their Price List and "How Big Berries, and Lots of Them, Are Grown on the Thayer Fruit Farms." Free.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN No. 2.

For May.

Fine manure raked or cultivated in near the surface will add fertility to the soil and make your plants grow.

Keep the ground moist and mellow by frequent cultivation, it warms the soil in early spring, and retains the moisture near the surface in the heat of summer.

An application of hardwood ashes will supply the soil with potash, so necessary in the fruit garden.

If any plants have failed to grow, set new ones in their place at once. A large per cent of labor is often lost by this neglect, and profits for several seasons reduced.

Potatoes may be planted between most berry rows the first season, but never any crop to shade the ground.

The size and quality of berries may be improved by severe pruning of laterals in early spring.

If currants were much injured by the borer last season, as soon as the leaves start the affected canes are easily discovered and should be cut out and burned at once. About June 1st the egg is laid. As soon as hatched the young borer eats its way into the cane, and remains until the following season.

Picking, packing and marketing are important factors in growing berries for profit.

The grower should understand at once that choice berries are always in demand at good prices and the market is never overstocked.

That it costs just as much to raise poor berries.

That it costs as much to pick and pack poor berries; that freight and express charges are just as high on poor berries, hence there is profit only in growing the best for market.

Berry boxes, picking cases and shipping cases should be ready before the hurry of the season begins.

Clean, well-made packages, neatly stenciled on the side with name and residence soon become your "trade mark;" let it also be a guarantee of good berries honestly packed.

Never allow stems, leaves, imperfect or unripe berries in the box. Handle carefully.

Always have a uniform quality throughout, and the boxes well filled. Berries carry better if boxes are rounding full.

For long shipments pick every day and before fruit is too ripe. Never offer poor berries for sale; never use a poor or inferior package. If it becomes necessary to sell poor berries,

send to a good commission house, but never place your stencil on the package.

Let markets be as near as possible and to regular customers. If you would have good markets for your berries always deal honestly with your customers. —M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

The Thayer Fruit Farms of Sparta, Wis., are the largest Northern growers of berries and berry plants.

Their strawberry plants are grown in special plant beds from plants that have never been fruited.

Do not use strawberry plants dug from old fields. They are worthless.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN No. 3.

For June.

After clean cultivation and hoeing apply summer mulch to raspberries and blackberries early in the month.

Green clover cut in the blossom and applied at once is best; it should be placed continuously along the hills about three feet wide and from four to five inches deep, leaving a clean space between the rows for cultivation.

Clover as a mulch is easily applied; it lays in a compact mass, retains the moisture, is free from weed seed, keeps the berries clean and enriches the soil.

Coarse manure or straw will do, where clover cannot be obtained, but is objectionable as it contains many seeds of noxious weeds.

When the new canes are twelve or fifteen inches high, nip the tops back about two inches; this will cause numerous laterals to grow, which should be trimmed quite severely in the fall or spring.

The pinching back of the new growth is important; it largely increases the bearing surface and keeps the bushes low, strong and well formed.

Cultivate frequently and shallow when ground is dry; also as soon after a hard rain as ground will permit. Frequent cultivation retains the moisture near the surface and makes plant food more available.

Allow no fruit to grow on strawberry beds the first season; pick off all buds and blossoms.

With strong growing varieties runners should be removed until the middle of July, then trained to form a matted row with clean paths between.

The time for guarding against insect and fungus diseases is now at hand.

It is estimated that fruit to the value of more than a million dollars is daily destroyed by these pests. They are the greatest obstacles the grower has to contend with. Guard against them in season.

It does not require scientific knowledge to apply the simple remedies recommended, but a little common sense and observation.

Many scientists, specialists and thinking growers are giving their best thoughts to this subject.

Read their reports, remember results and experiment in a moderate way on your own grounds.

The successful grower must become familiar with "London Purple," "Kerosene Emulsion," "Bordeaux Mixture" and kindred formulas.

He should understand their uses as remedies and preventives, as the skillful physician does his medicines.

The currant worm, which appears on the lower leaves of the currants and gooseberries soon after the fruit is formed, can be easily exterminated by sprinkling with white hellebore (one ounce dissolved in two gallons of water), two or three applications being sufficient if applied when they first appear. —M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

Include in your order for plants a few at least of the Van Deman Strawberry. Prices reduced for 1894 to 50 cents per dozen; \$2.50 per hundred.

Mr. Thayer says "The Van Deman is the most promising of all the new staminate varieties; it is first to ripen of over fifty kinds we fruit."

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN NO. 4.

For July.

Give shallow cultivation to all small fruit plants every week in July.

Good growth this month practically determines the value of bearing canes and vines the following season.

Liberal mulching and frequent cultivation are essential to this end.

The pinching back of late new shoots of raspberries and blackberries should be continued.

The bearing canes of raspberries should be cut near the ground immediately after fruiting and burned.

The fruiting beds of strawberries should be closely cut with a scythe or mower immediately after fruiting, and after drying a few days burned over.

This treatment of raspberries and strawberries will destroy the germ of

many insect pests and fungus diseases, at the same time add much to the health and vigor of new growth.

The rows of strawberry beds intended for fruiting another year should be reduced to ten or twelve inches in width, the grass and weeds hoed out and ground spaded or pulverized between the rows, then add a liberal dressing of well-rotted manure.

If the strawberry bed has been fruited two years plow it up at once and sow to buckwheat or some other thick growing crop and plow the same under just before frost.

This keeps the ground free from weeds and adds fertility to the soil.

Allow the new runners on strawberries to root for plants, and see that each plant has three or four inches space in which to grow.

Many berries are small and inferior because vines are too thickly matted in the row.

The orange rust on raspberries may be expected about this time. All affected canes should be cut out root and branch and burned.

If the worm is still on the currant and gooseberry bushes sprinkle again with white hellebore, one ounce dissolved in two gallons of water.

—M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

For red raspberries the Marlboro is the best of all for market, bringing the highest prices on account of its beautiful appearance and grand shipping qualities.

The Shaffer Colossal should be in every home garden collection. It is the best of all for the table and canning.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN NO. 5.

For August.

The strawberry season for 1893 has been marked by almost universal failure throughout the United States.

While staminate varieties have generally given a fair yield, pistillates have been deformed, irregular and small, resulting from lack of fertilization.

This general want of fertilization may be attributed to impotency or lack of vigor of the pollen, aggravated in some localities by unfavorable weather, and in others by scarcity of the honey bee and its valuable work as a pollinizer.

This lack of pollenization appears to extend over a wide area, and includes many varieties of fruit.

Severe local drouths and hot winds have reduced productions, while anthracnose on the raspberry, blight and other kindred diseases have made a steady advance.

From all these partial failures useful lessons may be learned.

Strong pollenizers (staminates) should be used freely.

Pistillates (female) are usually shallow rooted, with small foliage; make plants rapidly and will not stand severe drouth if allowed to grow too thickly in the matted row. They should be heavily mulched.

The knapsack sprayer is best for all small fruits, and should be more generally used.

Mark well the varieties that have done best in your particular soil, and under your special treatment this season. Do the same next year. One season may not prove the best variety to grow or determine the best method of culture in your locality.

For a sandy loam and a light sandy soil well enriched, in fact, for most soils, I would, after a trial of over fifty varieties, select the following well-tested kinds as best:

For family and near market.	For commercial purposes.
Warfield (P),	Warfield (P),
Michel's Early (S),	Van Deman (S),
Van Deman (S),	Parker Earle (S),
Haverland (P),	Sandoval (S),
Jessie (S),	Wilson (S),
Bubach (P),	Michel's Early (S)
Crescent (P),	

For late—

Parker Earle (S), Eureka (P),
Gaudy (S).

If you would have a strawberry bed next season prepare for it now. For family use plants may be set the last of August or early in September. For commercial purposes spring setting (being more sure) is preferred. In either case let the land be thoroughly prepared in the fall.

A fruit garden will give you health of body and peace of mind. Prepare for it at once.

The reading of newspapers will stimulate thought and improve your methods. You cannot succeed without them.

Subscribe for good progressive journals at once and read them carefully.

—M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

The Nemeha Black Raspberry is the best blackcap for all purposes—larger than all and the most prolific.

For market plant Palmer, Ohio and Nemeha. Two-thirds should be Nemehas.

The Ancient Briton Blackberry is the best of all. The largest yield of Blackberries ever known are those on the Thayer Fruit Farms, Sparta, Wis.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN NO. 6.

For September.

Raspberries, both red and black, have been a fair crop, this season, when well cultivated and properly mulched.

Early varieties have been affected somewhat by anthracnose, a disease of the bark, producing a scabby appearance on the cane, and stopping the circulation of the sap. The disease attacks the base of the cane first, and spreads upward.

Prevention—Clean culture and plenty of air and light by thorough pruning.

The old canes having been cut out and burned, soon after fruiting, spray the new canes at once with "Bordeaux Mixture." Also spray in the spring before leaves appear.

For the family, garden and near market the Ohio, Palmer, Older, Progress among the early blackcaps, and Shaffer's Colossal (purple) are among the best.

The Nemeha and Gregg, for late, head the list for size and profit in the general market. These berries are almost identical, but Nemeha canes are stronger and more hardy.

In red, the Marlboro, for early, is best, and Cuthbert, for late, is quite satisfactory.

The Golden Queen (or White Cuthbert), a beautiful, dainty family berry, lacks character and is not recommended for the general market.

New plants of the red raspberry and blackberry are obtained by digging the larger vigorous roots and cutting in pieces about four inches long and sowing in drills late in the fall or early spring. Keep well hoed and they are ready to set the following year.

Suckers or Sprouts,

coming up between the rows are equally good if carefully dug and a portion of the cross root secured with them. Many plants are spoiled in digging.

New plants of the black raspberry are obtained by covering the tips with dirt. With a hoe, spade or trowel make a cut in moist dirt about three inches deep; insert the tip of the new cane and press the dirt firmly about it. If done early in September this will give you nice plants the following spring.

Currant and gooseberry cuttings should be taken from new growth, cut six or eight inches long and set six or eight inches apart in drills, leaving one or two buds above the ground. These may be set in the fall, and covered lightly with mulching, or tied in bundles and buried in sand, away from frost, until early spring.

Grape cuttings are prepared in the same manner. They should also have at least two buds below the ground and one above.

All cuttings should have good ground, well prepared, clean cultivation and be free from weeds.

The propagation of plants becomes very interesting to most children, and they should be encouraged in it. Give them a chance to raise berries, and let them have a share of the profits that are sure to come with good cultivation.

—M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

Subscribe for the agricultural or horticultural paper that publishes "Thayer's Berry Bulletins" every month.

The Bulletins for 1894 will be interesting and valuable to every fruit grower in the United States and Canada.

Watch for them.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN NO. 7.

For October.

Winter protection is an absolute necessity for growing small fruits successfully in a Northern climate. It should be practiced in every locality where the temperature reaches zero, or below.

With the high cultivation now practiced, a large and tender growth is stimulated; hence the greater necessity for maintaining as uniform a temperature as possible throughout the winter.

Even in localities where plants show no injury, and among those considered most hardy, the vitality is often affected, and the succeeding crop very much reduced.

The best winter protection for blackberries, raspberries and grapes consists in laying them down and covering lightly with dirt.

All old canes and weak new growth should be cut out and burned soon after fruiting, leaving only strong, vigorous plants.

If plants have been well mulched in summer with green clover, clean straw, or coarse manure, as they

should be, less dirt is required by using this mulching.

In laying plants down (the rows running north and south), commence at the north end, remove the dirt from the north side of the hill about four inches deep; gather the branches in close form with a wide fork, raising it toward the top of the bush and press gently to the north, at the same time placing the foot firmly on the base of the hill, and press hard toward the north.

If the ground is hard, or bushes old, a second man may use a potato fork instead of the foot, inserting same deeply, close to south side of hill, and press over slowly, bending the bush in the root until nearly flat on the ground. The bush is then held down with wide fork until properly covered. The top of succeeding hill should rest near the base of preceding hill, thus making a continuous covering.

This process is an important one, but is easily acquired with a little practice.

In the spring remove the dirt carefully, with a fork, and slowly raise the bush.

With hardy varieties, and in mild winters, sufficient protection may be had by laying down and covering the tips only. Grapes, being more flexible, are laid down without removal of dirt near the vine.

There is no more important work on the fruit farm, or garden, than winter protection, and there is no work more generally neglected. Let it be done thoroughly, after frosts have come, and before winter sets in.

—M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

Buy your plants of The Thayer Fruit Farms, Sparta, Wis. They grow the plants that produce best berries and bring most profit.

Remember, their plants are grown on their farms at Sparta, Wis., where the thermometer often reaches 45 degrees below zero.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN NO. 8.

For November.

The grapevine accommodates itself to almost all methods of treatment, and, with reasonable care, gives abundance of fruit.

The necessity for good, rich soil, well drained and cultivated, same as for other fruits, is generally admitted

by all, but proper pruning—the easiest part of grape growing—seems to be the least understood of any part of the work.

Pruning.

It must be remembered that the vine bears its fruit on shoots of the same year's growth, from eyes on the previous year's wood. It is necessary to understand this, because we must keep up a supply of young wood wherever we desire fruit to grow.

A one- or two-year-old plant, when sent from the nursery, may have only one shoot, or it may have several; in any event all should be cut off but the strongest one, and that cut back to within two eyes of the base. These two eyes will produce shoots the following season, and when they have made a growth of a few inches, rub off the weak one and let the strong one grow until September, when the end should be pinched off to ripen up the wood. Late in the fall cut back to within three eyes of the base.

All side shoots and suckers should be pinched off. The second year the strongest shoots from these three eyes should be preserved as before. The third and succeeding years allow only the strong canes to grow with branches to compare with the vigor of the vine.

Trim all vines severely in the fall, leaving spurs or canes of new wood, containing two or three eyes each, for next summer's fruit.

After pruning, lay the vine down and protect for winter the same as blackberries and raspberries.

An application of fine manure between the rows of all small fruits will protect the roots in winter, feed them in early spring, and greatly increase the size and quality of fruit.

The ground intended for spring setting of plants will be in better condition if plowed and manured at once, harrowing the same thoroughly in spring before setting.

As soon as the ground is frozen cover the strawberry bed lightly with marsh hay, clean straw, coarse manure, or some other light protection. This should remain until the plants start in the spring, then rake between the rows for a summer mulch.

The ripening of strawberries may be delayed a few days by allowing the mulch to remain over the plants until well started. This delay often saves the crop from injury by late frosts.

You may have plants of blackberries, red raspberries, currants, gooseberries and grapes for early spring setting by digging or buying at once,

and keeping them buried in sand, away from frost, until ready to set out.

—M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

The Victoria, Red Dutch and White Grape Currants are the best for all purposes.

The Houghton and Downing Gooseberries are the best for home or market.

The Thayer Fruit Farms are testing a new variety and they intend to introduce it in 1895 if it proves as valuable as it now promises. It is as large as the Industry, green in color and does not mildew. It will be named The Queen.

One bush has been known to produce a bushel of gooseberries.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN NO. 9.

For December.

The berry season is over, the work for the year has been completed, but the thoughtful grower will often recall all the little experiences of the past, and carefully determine in what way he could have improved his work. One should learn more from failure than success. By opposition one should become strong and confident.

The determination to succeed makes the successful grower. Failures and disappointments must be overcome.

The important point is to know the cause of failure, and have the courage to correct it.

In seasons of drouth we are taught the necessity of summer mulch and constant cultivation.

In the failure of new, high-priced novelties we learn there is safety only in the well-tried kinds.

The partial failure of even some of the best kinds this season teaches us the wisdom of having several good varieties.

There are many things to remember now that we may improve in the coming season's work.

The busy season is over for the grower, but for the good farmer and his provident family the memory of the little fruit garden should never end.

Every day, during the long winter, he should be reminded by some dainty in the way of berries,—canned, dried or preserved,—cheaper and better in every way than can be secured at grocery or market.

The fruit garden serves only half its purpose, if a good winter supply is omitted.

The process of canning, drying or preserving fruit is so plain and simple, the jars themselves, which may be used year after year, are so cheap and easily adjusted, there seems to be no good reason why the farmer's family should not be well supplied with these products. Not as a luxury for occasional use, but as a necessity for health, comfort and good living.

The science of living well has not been learned in that family where the product of the fruit garden is omitted.

If there are such families, and we know there are many, let us assist them during the year 1894 in planning and laying out a family garden, with timely hints and full plain directions for growing all small fruits and berries.

—M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

The Thayer Fruit Farms successfully grow on their farms at Sparta, Wis. (where the thermometer drops as low as 45 degrees below zero), the Moore's Early, Worden, Delaware, Brighton and Concord Grapes. Don't try too many new kinds.

reports are valuable, and may be had for the asking.

Small fruits and berries can be produced ready for picking at three cents per quart. Every farm and village home should have all that can be used.

A quarter-acre garden, well arranged, set to best varieties, and properly cared for, should yield at least 25 bushels of berries. In no other way can a farmer produce so much of value, with so little labor, as in a garden of small fruits.

An illustrated plan of such a garden, especially adapted to farm or village homes, will be found in our next Bulletin, with full directions from time to time, so plain and simple that all may grow their own fruit.

The selection of a location, the quality of soil, its preparation, the arrangement of a garden, the varieties to set, the amount of each, how to purchase plants, care before setting, how to set, how and when to cultivate, how to trim, train, propagate, mulch, protect, support, and many other points, are essential to the greatest success.

The question to decide now is, shall we have a berry garden the coming spring?

—M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN NO. 10.

For January.

In successful fruit growing there is something more than the mechanical work of plowing, hoeing and cultivating. There is a real pleasure in the growing of fruits, and in the development of each leaf, bud and blossom there is an inspiration, but the real practical knowledge of growing them to the best advantage can be acquired only by careful reading of good books and papers, followed by close observation.

First, then, subscribe for several first-class journals, horticultural, agricultural, and others having a well-conducted horticultural department. Commence now to study and plan for the berry garden that is to be.

The wonder of the age is that so many most excellent papers may be had at so little cost; and the misfortune of the age is that people do not read more of them. Half a dozen in each family is none too many. A single number is often worth more than a year's subscription. Your own state horticultural and agricultural

We can furnish the following standard and valuable books at the publishers' prices, mailed free to any address:

Barry's New Fruit Garden.....	\$2.00
Gardening for Profit (Henderson)	2.00
Gardening for Pleasure (Henderson)	2.00
Play and Profit in My Garden (E. P. Roe).....	1.50
Strawberry Culturist (Fuller)....	.25
"The Amateur Fruit Grower," by Prof. S. B. Green.....	.50

Mr. Thayer offers you his advice at all times free, and is always glad to answer the questions of his friends in horticulture.

His advice as to laying out a quarter-acre garden or a ten-acre berry farm is yours for the asking.

Don't hesitate to write him in regard to varieties to plant for your location—new varieties that are valuable, etc., etc., etc.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN NO. 11.

For February.

Our garden being 66 feet wide and 165 feet long, and wishing to do all labor possible with a horse and cultivator, we stake off the ground in rows 150 feet long and seven feet apart.

Strawberry rows to be one-half this distance, or $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart. Leave a head land $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide at each end for turning. Make the first row 3

feet from the outside and set as follows:

1st Row—13 Fruit Trees.

Composed of well-tested varieties of Apples, Pears, Plums and Cherries, such as are hardy and known to do well in your particular locality. This is especially necessary in the Northwest.

2d Row—50 Blackberries.

40 Ancient Briton, 10 Snyder.

3d Row—50 Black Raspberries.

20 Nemeha, 20 Ohio, 10 Older, Palmer or Progress.

4th Row—50 Red Raspberries.

25 Marlboro, 15 Cuthbert, 10 Shaffer's Colossal.

5th Row—50 Currants.

25 Victoria, 25 Red Dutch.

6th Row—White Currants and Gooseberries.

25 White Grape, 15 Downing, 10 Houghton.

7-8-9 Rows—300 Strawberries.

200 (pistillate) selected from Warfield, Crescent, Haverland, Bubach, Eureka.

100 (staminate) selected from Michel's Early, Jessie, Parker Earle, Van Deman, Capt. Jack, Rio.

10th Row—17 Grapes.

6 Moore's Early, 3 Worden, 3 Brighton, 3 Concord, 2 Delaware.

These varieties have been tested in the Northwest, and do well in most localities in the United States.

In more temperate climate selections may be made from other well-tried kinds; always bearing in mind that only first-class plants should be used.

—M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

Remember us when you want berry plants.

We make a specialty of raising plants that we know will produce such berries as you want—**Big Berries and Lots of Them.**

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN NO. 12.

For March.

Strong, vigorous plants are more necessary for the garden than good seed for the farm.

Poor seed makes a failure for a single year only, while the result of poor plants lasts many seasons.

Never use strawberries from an old bed. They should be selected from

new beds on which no fruit was grown the previous season.

Remember, pistillate plants are female, and should have staminate (male) or perfect flowering kinds set with them, about every third row.

Pistillates are usually smaller, more prolific and will not stand drouth as well as staminates.

All fruit plants and trees should have a good supply of fine, light colored fibrous roots, which is an indication of new, vigorous and healthy growth.

Select plants of currant, grape and gooseberry, one or two years old. A strong one-year-old is better than a weak two-year-old.

In ordering plants always avoid the professional tree peddler. Deal directly with the grower himself, and your plants will cost much less, and be delivered in better condition. Send order at once to a responsible grower, with full description and number of plants wanted, but do not have them shipped until you are ready for setting.

Ground should be prepared as early in the spring as its condition will allow, and plants set at once.

If you are not sure of a responsible grower you can refer to any of the half dozen good farm or horticultural papers which you take (or ought to take).

When plants arrive, they should be kept in a cool place (the cellar is best), until used. The roots should never be exposed to the sun or wind, or allowed to become dry.

If large roots are broken or injured, they should be smoothly trimmed with a sharp knife. If top is large,

it should be trimmed back. The root is the foundation for future supplies, and must be tenderly cared for. If roots of strawberries are long, it is better to cut them back to four or five inches before setting. The top should also be reduced to two leaves.

To prepare the ground and set the plants in the best manner is very important, and will be explained in our April Bulletin.

—M. A. Thayer.

Sparta, Wis.

The Thayer Fruit Farms grow their plants at Sparta, Wis., where the thermometer sometimes registers 45 degrees below zero.

They grow "**Big Berries and Lots of Them,**" and know what you want better than nurseries in a warmer climate.

Do you see the Point. It's a Big One.

If you don't, come and see us. We only advertise what we have and what we can show our visitors in season.

NOT WHAT OTHERS GROW, BUT WHAT WE GROW.

100 acres devoted to berries.

Price List Free.

THAYER FRUIT FARMS,

M. A. Thayer, Manager.

C. E. Tobey, Supt.

Sparta, Wis.

BIG BERRIES

THAYER'S BOOK

OW BIG BERRIES AND LOTS OF THEM, ARE GROWN

AND THAYER'S MONTHLY

BERRY BULLETINS

UP TO DATE

Free with each order for Berry Plants.

Largest Northern Growers of

all Kinds of Berries, and

Berry Plants, Price List free.

THAYER FRUIT FARMS

SPARTA,

WIS.