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FRIENDS—but once in over forty years growing strawberries have we had such long continued drought in spring with late spring frosts and freeze as last season. If not that we grew our plants for greatest vigor, health and hardiness, for fruit—our only money crop, except the plants, it is doubtful if we would have had a hundred dollars worth of berries to sell at this June fruiting, but there were still some buds not frozen and others still more latent and embryonic in the crowns from the fall before, that we brought out by thorough irrigation—flooding between rows—resulting in a partial crop, about $800 worth at around 25 and 30 cents per quart on the market and half that price to those who came to pick their own for canning, etc.—a practice we have followed more or less for thirty years and more.

In normal seasons we sometimes have a hundred pickers, other than our own, parties from many miles around who come to pick their own at half market price when most plentiful and cheap. Last spring some came from twenty miles away where there were no berries to be had, they said, but had heard of ours. Such parties bring their own crates and baskets or we furnish them, redeeming them at cost if returned promptly in good condition. We do not pick on Sundays, or have any picked on shares, or any of the Everbearers in this way throughout the summer and fall.

We bought this farm and grove on Round or Grove lake—eighty-four acres all told—and re-established here on a by-road sixteen years ago, to grow strawberries for the nearby city market. If you come to see us from afar we are one mile south of Michigan Center and about two miles east of Jackson southeast city limits. This by-road, now Flansburgh road, connects with M-50, the Napoleon or Toledo road, at the iron bridge across Grand river, about a mile away. Our address is R. F. D. 7, Jackson, Mich., but we are always glad to have you come and see our plants and our varieties when you can.

The Everbearers are like the June varieties but are everbearing in addition, making a full crop at the regular June fruiting, after which we give them thorough cultivation when they begin again—about Aug. 1, fruiting more moderately but continuous every day throughout the summer and fall until the ground freezes. They are the ideal hill culture varieties—the ideal way to grow strawberries. The plants set out in spring begin to bear at once, but like the June varieties must be kept disbudded until well established, growing good about July 1, when they are allowed to fruit at will, making their first crop before snow flies.

$2,359.50 per acre from 30,000 Progressive and Champion got us last spring. Hill culture the ideal. Intensive cultivation the watchword.

Grass Lake, Mich., Dec. 14, 1925

C. N. Flansburgh & Son, Jackson, Mich.—Must say thanks to you for the 30,000 Progressive and Champion I got of you last spring. They were set in rows 30 inches apart and 1 foot apart in the row; were kept disbudded and all runners kept off until July 1; then started to fruit. We picked and sold 13,000 quarts—averaged 30 cents per quart. Can see no difference between the two varieties. Fertilized with 450 lbs. acid phosphate and 20 tons manure per acre. Used the overhead-spray system of irrigation and kept well cultivated throughout the season.

Book us for 60,000 Progressive and Champion, also 5,500 Howard or Premier for next spring, to be called for as notified in advance, part at a time, as we can set them out, and so that you will have them ready as wanted and oblige.

Yours truly,

ALBERT E. GARDNER, R. F. D. 1

PROGRESSIVE
(Per) (Everbearing)

Originated by Harlow Rockhill of Iowa. It was introduced by us in 1913 and has since become the most famous of all varieties, the universal Everbearer, succeeding in all sections throughout the United States and Canada. We have had inquiries from many foreign countries. We have sent the plants to England that arrived in fair condition. Another order went to New York destined for the interior of Brazil. It is the hardest of all known varieties, the earliest and latest, bringing highest prices for the first home grown in spring to advancing prices late in fall. It is fully as productive in the spring as the June varieties but the spring crop is usually half over by the time the others come along, and they are ready to begin again soon after the June varieties are done. Under thorough cultivation in hills or narrow rows these old plants will bear continuously from August 1, until the ground freezes in the fall, while a plant set out in spring that did not bear within three months would be a curiosity with us. The fruit is high quality, of good size, about like "Dunlap". It is deep, rich red throughout a favorite for the table, fresh or canned. It is the one all around, most desirable variety for the home garden, while it has become a great commercial variety as well. We have tried it out under all kinds of conditions and believe we have as good, if not the best, strain of this variety in existence.
SPECIAL MENTION

CHAMPION (Per) (Everbearing) Claimed to be a seceding of “Progressive.” Its history is obscure. Our plants were from Mr. Lubke, the introducer. If from seed of the “Progressive,” why then it is a new one, however much they are alike. “Progressive” has been growing better year by year with us from the beginning—the money maker here for fruit. “Champion” is a good one anyway, with such a parentage and claimed superior, no wonder that there is a great sensation.

MASTADON (Per) (Everbearing) New. Our plants were from the introducer, Dunlap, 1923. We have the new fashions and handsome plants. We regard it a promising variety.

COOPER (Per) A June variety. Our plants were from the introducers, spring of 1922. So much was claimed for it that we set out all bulbs and some runners in 1923, and I expect the other plants which fruited midseason produced as well as could be expected. Fruit large, bright, glossy red, good quality, a promising variety. Above is from our 1924 catalog.

There has been much inquiry but it is still too new to say that it will excite or equal the Howard or Premier as claimed, but it is a large, fine handsome berry with a texture much like Howard and Dunlap that promises much for it as a commercial variety and we are giving it more space. From our 1925 catalog.

Last spring, 1925, the late spring frosts and freeze got this and all others so it is hard to say what it might have done under normal conditions. It is a good grower and the plants have an extraordinary good root system.

THE JUNE VARIETIES

We are now growing Dunlap, Dr. Buirll, Premier, Howard No. 17, K’s Prize, and K’s Big are more extensively for our own fruiting and the trade than all others of the June varieties. The Dunlap is the best known early and midseason variety. “Dr. Buirll” is very similar to the Dunlap; it is good if not better. We want to speak a good word for the Dr. Buirll as a polener for any pinnate or imperfect blossom variety in our list. “Buirll” gains favor every year as more reliable and more valuable than the long time favored Dunlap. Howard No. 17 and Premier are the best and among varieties as productive as “Proserv” or any of the old standbys and with K’s Big and Prize for late it would be hard to pick a better combination for the market among well tried varieties.

With the early sorts pay best, aside from the Progressive Everbearing—earliest of all varieties, at the regular June fruiting comes Premier and Howard No. 17, Dunlap, Dr. Buirll, K’s Big, Late, etc.

NOTE—Howard No. 17 and Premier are one and the same variety that was originated by A. B. Howard & Son of Massachusettss in 1900. We are now keeping these apart. As Howard No. 17 holds the record for greatest yield per acre in the East and has outyielded every other June variety in trial plant with us, fruiting early to late. We are not growing this more largely for our own fruiting than any other June variety.

WE GUARANTEE OUR PLANTS true to name and to reach their destination in good condition by express or mail to all parts of the United States, up to May 15th, with the understanding that we shall not be liable for more than the original cost of the plants in any case. Should a package go astray, be damaged or destroyed enroute or any error we have made, to be notified at once.

All orders promptly acknowledged and notice sent when plants are shipped except when forwarded by mail. Our certificate of Inspection is attached to every package.

We begin our shipments south as soon as we can dig in spring, about April 1st, sometimes in March. We like to have our customers say when or proper season, or ship when notified and let us know a few days in advance. We do not substitute without permission.

Terms: Cash with order, but orders will be booked to hold if part payment is enclosed, the balance to be sent before shipment. Remit by Postoffice or Express money order, bank draft or check or small sums in one or two cent stamps. A check is often more convenient for our customers and by courtesy of our banker is equally acceptable with us.

HILL CULTURE

Set out in three foot rows the plants 14 inches in the row (about 1200 plants per acre) or in two foot check rows to cultivate both ways (about 1500 plants per acre). Dr. Buirll requires from 8 to 10 feet until well established (about July 10). Keep off all runners and keep the soil at all times loose and lively by thorough cultivation and repeat—the more you give the more you will receive.

For mulled rows we grow the June varieties 3½ feet by 14 to 18 inches in the row (about 6000 plants per acre.).

PRICE LIST

Six plants of one variety at dozen rates; 50 plants of one variety at hundred rates; 500 plants of one variety at 1,000 rates. (P) for perfect. (I) for imperfect blossoms.

The Everbearers are in blackface type.

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ADDITIONAL VARIETIES—Big Joe, Big Star, Early Jersey Giant, Gandy, Glen Mary, Havenland and Stevens Late, 20c per dozen post paid.

RED RASPBERRY PLANTS

LATHAM (Red Path) New. The coming Red Raspberry. 6 plants for $1.00, 12 plants $1.75 post paid.

St. Regis (Everbearing) 6 plants for 50c, 12 plants 75c post paid.

Write us for estimate on 500 to 5,000 Strawberry Plants delivered to your door by Parcel Post prepaid. Fresh dug and no delay.

WANTED—To buy or will exchange with any of our customers nearby for loose hay straw or straw delivered. If you have a surplus at any time free from quack, or any old stock otherwise unsalable but good enough for mulch, see us.

Robinson, Ill. 4, 18, ’25. The plants were received in fine condition and at the price asked, and the high grade quality you always send out and the care you use in packing and preserving them. M. E. COX.

Birmingham, Mich., 5, 5, ’25. Please send me by parcel post 100 plants each of Cooper and Howard No. 17. I have dealt with your firm many years and always get the best berries from you and always true to name. I will be on your list as long as I grow berries. R. T. ROBINSON.

Mernic, Mich. Please send us your catalog. We got plants of you four years ago and was pleased with them as we did not lose any in starting them. We have been off from our farm for two years living in Ohio but want to get back in strawberries as we are now back on the farm. W. S. BAILEY.

Prairieville, Mich., 4, 14, ’25. Enclosed find check for 500 Dunlap and 50 Champion by parcel post, return mail if possible. It has been rather dry and we would like to take advantage of the few showers at present. Well pleased with plants received from you two years ago.

LATER—4, 18, ’25. Plants received and just finished setting them. I think they are the nicest plants I ever saw.

LYNDON McFATE

West Salem, O., 2, 3, ’25. Was glad to get your folder. We have fine berries from your plants. I tell everyone how good they are. In four weeks from setting out they have wonderful berries and they bore all summer. Will want 600 more of your Everbearing plants. Your customer, MRS. RUSE.

LIMA, O., 3, 8, ’25. Enclosed find money order. I am sending for 200 Everbearing plants for J. H. Dull. Your plants were fine and all grown. Please send about May 1. R. A. BREWER.

Muncie, Ind., 5, 5, ’25. Mr. Geo. Waid of Muncie was telling me about your Premier berries. He seems to have a good deal of confidence in you. Will you please send me 500 Premier if not too late. I will leave that to you. J. H. SHARP.

Lake City, Mich., 4, 23, ’25. Enclosed find check for 500 Dunlap fresh dug—by parcel post at once. I am very anxious to get a bed of this variety this year. I find the ones I transplant from my own rows grow well while those I get from nursery mostly fail. I hope to be more successful with yours. The Everbearers I obtained from you five years ago grew fine and I still have a fine bed of plants obtained from them. MABEL DENNIS.