

**A COMPLETE MANUAL FOR THE CULTIVATION
OF THE STRAWBERRY; WITH A DESCRIPTION
OF THE BEST VARIETIES. ALSO, NOTICES OF
THE RASPBERRY, BLACKBERRY, CRANBERRY,
CURRANT, GOOSEBERRY, AND GRAPE; WITH
DIRECTIONS FOR THEIR CULTIVATION**

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A Complete Manual for the Cultivation of the Strawberry; With a Description of the Best Varieties. Also, Notices of the Raspberry, Blackberry, Cranberry, Currant, Gooseberry, and Grape; With Directions for Their Cultivation by R. G. Pardee

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R. G. PARDEE

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GOOSEBERRY, AND GRAPE;
WITH DIRECTIONS FOR THEIR CULTIVATION, AND THE SELECTION OF
THE BEST VARIETIES.

* Every process here recommended has been proved, the place of origin noted, and the result is here given.*

NEW AND REVISED EDITION.

Richard G. Pardee
BY R. G. PARDEE.

WITH A VALUABLE APPENDIX,
CONTAINING THE OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF SOME OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL
CULTIVATORS OF THESE FRUITS IN OUR COUNTRY.

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PREFACE

TO THE TENTH EDITION.

IN preparing the present edition for the press, I have concluded to revise and modify every expression, in the light of the past experiences and observation of the Horticultural world up to the present time.

Great changes have been brought about in the Strawberry by the introduction of new varieties, all requiring somewhat different treatment.

For instance, Wilson's Seedling was introduced a few years ago, and it is not too much to say, that it will, under the best treatment, produce twice or three times as much fruit as any known variety of the Strawberry would do when this work was originally prepared. Since then, other similar varieties, enormous bearers, have been introduced, and they consequently require richer soil and higher culture. This work never advocated poor soil or poor culture as some have erroneously supposed, but it simply cautioned against *excessive* stimulation—to grow leaves and plants instead of fruit.

There is still much complaint of many failures in the cultivation of the Strawberry. Some get one or two crops and then run out, and they give up in despair, when the fault is all their own. They are not exact and accurate enough in their treatment of their plants, and

the most common causes of failure seem to be the following, viz:—

1. Allowing two or more varieties to grow and mix in the same bed. This in two years will prove fatal if allowed to run. Permit but *one* kind in a bed.

2. Allowing the plants to grow too compactly. If you keep every single plant ten or twelve inches distant from every other, it will remedy this evil.

3. Keep clear of weeds, without maiming the plants by chopping off the little fibrous roots. Do not hill up the plants, but give level culture; use the spading fork and mulch well.

At the head of the new proved varieties I would certainly place *Wilson's Seedling*. In Ohio, last June, I was told that Wilson's was twice as productive as any other variety. Illinois and Indiana told me the same story; while strawberry growers of Wisconsin insisted that it would bear *four* times as much as any other kind. I have never seen so productive a berry. It is large in size, brisk acid, but good flavor when fully ripe, and hardy.

Triomphe de Gand is an excellent Belgian variety, and has become a great favorite. It is sweeter, pleasanter flavor than Wilson's, very large, often coxcomb shape, and is very productive.

Mr. Fuller's Seedlings, the *Brooklyn Scarlet*, *Colonel Ellsworth* and the *Monitor*, generously sent out by the New York Tribune Association, are large, fine productive varieties that promise well.

The same may be said of *Mr. Burgess's Seedling*, *General Scott* and others.

Russell's Seedling originated (with a gentleman of that name) in a garden which I formerly owned in Seneca Falls. It is very large, productive, good flavor and promises well.

Boynton's New Seedling, name not affixed, which is now about being sent out by the enterprising proprietor of the *American Agriculturist*, is of enormous size, and one of the handsomest berries I have yet seen. The flavor is good and seems to be productive. It certainly promises well.

In the descriptions of Strawberries in the body of this work, we would now discard altogether, as being superseded by other kinds, the following varieties, viz:—*Monroe Scarlet*, *McAvoy's Extra Red*, *Iowa*, *Genesee Seedling* and *Willey*.

Some of the other varieties are retained only on account of some single desirable quality for amateurs. A good test at the present time would be:

Wilson's Seedlings, *Triomphe de Gand*, *Longworth's Prolific*, *Hooker's Seedling*, *Hovey's*, and we hope some of *Fuller's*, *Burgess's*, *Russell's* and *Boynton's Seedlings*.

The Fruits of America are so fine as to claim more time, more care, more intelligent observation, and personal attention than has hitherto been given to them, for in no other way can old mother earth be made to yield a more sure and ample reward. We shall do well always to remember, as quoted by Mr. Downing, that "Fine fruit is the flower of commodities."

THE AUTHOR.

New York, August, 1863.