FRUIT FARMING FOR PROFIT (REV. TO 1911) A PRACTICAL TREATISE EMBRASING CHAPTERS ON ALL THE MOST PROFITABLE FRUITS, WITH DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMMERCIAL CULTURE ON THE KENT SYSTEM

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GEORGE BUNYARD

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Fruit Farming for Profit

(REVISED TO 1911)

A practical treatise embracing chapters on all the most profitable Fruits, with

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMMERCIAL CULTURE ON THE KENT SYSTEM

. . By . .

GEORGE BUNYARD,

Chairman of the Fruit Committee, Royal Horticultural Society, and Member of Council;

Expert at Chiswick and Edinboro' Fruit Conferences; Musler of the Fruiterers' Company of London, 1906; &c., &c. (For 50 years Manager of the Maidstone Nurseries).

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CONTENTS.

Chapter.		Page.
	Introductory Remarks	1
I.	Choice of Situation—Soil—Shelter	11
11.	Cultivation and Manuring	16
III.	Setting-out and Planting	23
IV.	Pruning in Commercial Fruit Culture	31
V.	Apples —Table and Kitchen	56
VI.	,, For Profit -R.H.S. Paper	67
VII.	Plums, Damsons and Bullaces	74
V111.	Pears	79
IX.	Cherries	83
х.	Walnuts and Chestnuts	87
XI.	Gooseberries	88
X11.	Red and Black Currants	91
XIII,	Kent Cob Nuts and Filberts	
XIV.	Strawberries and R.H.S. Paper	95
XV.	Rhubarb	107
XVI.	Raspberries	108
XVII.	Extra Fruits-Grapes, Penches, Figs, etc	110
XVIII.	Purchase of Trees, and Propagation	117
XIX.	Prices of Trees, Bushes, and Plants	122
XX.	Packing for Market	126
XXI.	Gathering and Storing	136
XXII,	Profits and Expenses	140
XXIII.	Insecta, Diseases, and Enemies	148
XXIV.	Future of Fruit Growing and Market Weights	180
XXV.	Labelling and Fruit Naming	196
XXVI.	The R.H.S. Fruit Conference & Lord Onslow's Committee.	198
XXVII.	Summary of Year's Work	202
	Appendix	218
	Supplement	999

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS.

	Page.
"The Kentish Express and Ashford News"	rage.
The Insect and other allied Pesis Their Prevention and	
Treatment Fred. V. Theobald, M.A.	H.
Insecticides—Corry & Co., Ltd	iii.
Victa Tree Grease—Howard Chapman	iv.
Abol Fruit Tree Wash-E. A. White, Ltd	\mathbf{v}_{ν}
Woburn Bordeaux Paste, etc.—Walter Voss & Co., Ltd	vi.
Fruit Tree Pruners - Coppin & Sons	vii.
Spraying Machinery—Drake & Fletcher	viii.
Reliable Salesmon:— G. J. Bedford Champion Bros.—R. Thurlow & Sons	íxx.
Fruit Growers' Specialities—G. Mence Smith	xi.
Kent Insurance Company	xi.
The Alpha Sprayer	xii.
"South Eastern Gazette"	xiii,
"Kent Messenger & Maidstone Telegraph"	xiii,
Vermorel's Eclair Knapsack Sprayers—Cooper, Pegler & Co	xiv,
Bee Hives, etc.—C. T. Overton & Sons	xv.
Fruit Exhibitions	xvi.
, Trees-George Bunyard & Co., Ltd	xvii.
Tools and Insecticides	
Fruit Farming Adviser	xix.
T Strom trans	

PREFACE

TO THE SIXTH EDITION.

In preparing another edition of this book, I have again to record remarkable progress in the Fruit industry throughout Britain. Old ideas are giving way rapidly to modern systems, and although the main points of my first edition in 1881 are still reliable, we have recently learnt so much that is valuable and of practical importance, that the present edition is entirely revised, so as to bring it up to date in every particular.

The new facts brought out by the interesting Conference held by the Royal Horticultural Society, and the important conclusions arrived at by the Parliamentary Enquiry or Commission, instituted by Lord Onslow, before which I had the honour of being summoned, are herein enumerated.

The published Journals relating to these meetings are well worth study by all interested in fruit culture. (For notes see Chapter XXVI.)

The steady demand for this little brochure continues, and, the last edition being exhausted, I have endeavoured to bring together the latest information available in the present work, and have carefully revised and reduced the lists of sorts and given fuller hints on spraying and insect pests than before. The importance of some operations has induced me to repeat them again and again, that they may not escape notice.

I offer this new edition to that generous public, who have shown their appreciation of my former endeavours to help on the better culture of hardy fruit in these Islands, and to inculcate such modes of treatment as shall enable British growers not only to hold their own, but to compete favourably with imports from abroad.

GEORGE BUNYARD, V.M.H.

The Royal Nurseries, Maidstone, Kent.

INTRODUCTION.

CRITICS may still ask "Do you not think that fruit culture will be overdone? and in view of blights, spring frosts, and occasional gluts of produce, are you still justified in advising an extension of the industry?"

The author's reply is, that, living as he does in the greatest fruit-growing County, and being in touch with the largest growers elsewhere, he is still perfectly convinced that there is room for extension, but on He would advocate the "Kentish modern lines. system," which may be stated briefly as intelligent fruit cultivation, as distinguished from the old system of fruit planting at hazard. One fact alone will answer all pessimists. It is this: the largest growers keen, hardworking, business men, who would be the first to feel lessening demand or the fall of prices below a paying scale-are yearly and constantly enlarging their acreage; and as they number their soft fruit produce by tons, and hard fruits by thousands of bushels, their action furnishes a complete reply.

But new growers must approach the business on modern methods—paying attention to the smallest details; cultivating those kinds that by name command market value; adopting the best system of grading, and endeavour to build up a reputation for honest packing and high quality; growing but few kinds and doing them well.