

# Auckland Loganberry Garden

**A**LTHOUGH strawberries are the only small fruits grown extensively in the Auckland district, a few small areas of loganberries and boysenberries have shown that these may also be produced commercially. That loganberries can be grown successfully has been demonstrated by Mr. A. C. Paice, of Avondale South, and in this article W. S. Kemp, Orchard Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Alexandra, describes the methods used.

**F**OR small fruits such as loganberries a fertile, well-drained soil is desirable. Mr. Paice's property contained sufficient land for the project, but it consists of heavy clay soil and is far from ideal. The chief factors in its favour are its closeness to Auckland City and its gently sloping northerly aspect.

The land, which previously had been used for growing strawberries, lacked suitable shelter for loganberries. The only established shelter consisted of a macrocarpa hedge which had been planted on the south and west sides of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre house section and was then about 10 years old. Only a small area could be planted inside this shelter, the bulk of the garden having to be established on the south of the ex-

isting shelter. It was therefore decided to subdivide the area into small blocks of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres with macrocarpa hedges and to plant both the macrocarpa and loganberry plants at the same time.

About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of loganberry vines were planted in the spring of 1944, and in 1946 the planting was increased by  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre.

## Spacings Inadequate

The vines were planted 4ft. 6in. apart in rows 9ft. apart. The headlands were approximately 15ft. wide. In the first area the distance between the parallel rows of shelter and vines was 10ft., but in the second planting

this distance was increased to 14ft. and the northern headland was increased to a width of 25ft. to allow for a roadway into the packing shed.

These spacings, especially the distance between vines, have proved to be too close. The space between the vines for training the canes on the fences is inadequate and they become entangled, making pruning, training, disease control, and harvesting more difficult. There is insufficient area of ground for full root development of each vine, and in those rows next to the shelter there is strong root competition with the macrocarpa. By the use of very heavy applications of fertiliser these disadvantages have been partially overcome. The removal of alternate vines so that the space between them was increased to 9ft. would be beneficial.

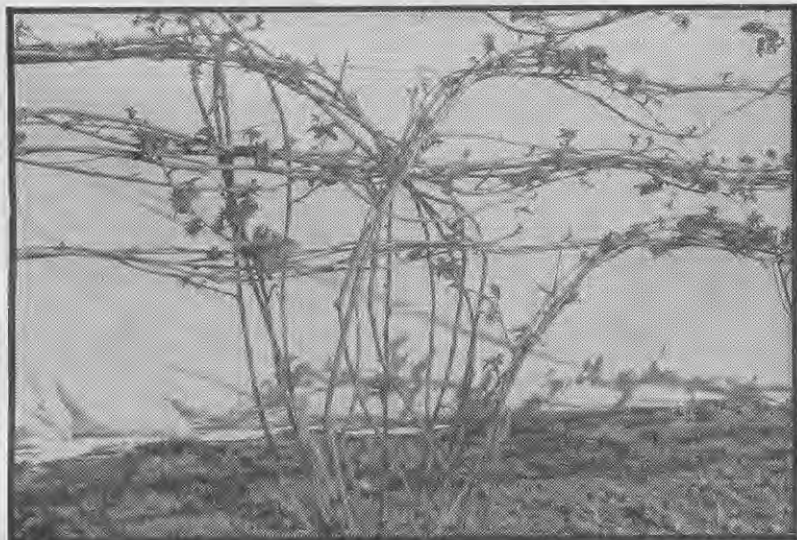
Mr. Paice considers that with present-day labour shortages the area in loganberries, about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acres, is too great and that boysenberries would have proved better for the second planting, as boysenberries mature a little later and picking and marketing difficulties would have been reduced considerably.

## Excellent Shelter

Although the macrocarpa shelter was planted at the same time as the vines, constant cultivation and manuring have encouraged rapid growth and excellent shelter is now provided. The vines also have received constant attention to cultural details and have responded accordingly. The winter following planting they were ready to be put on the fences for the first time. A small crop was harvested that season (1945), but no substantial quantities of fruit were picked until the third summer after planting. Since then the crop has increased each year.



[Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd. photo.]  
Portion of the main block with pickers at work.



[Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd. photo.]  
Method adopted for training the vines.