

A NEW WAY OF PROTECTING FRUIT

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I have a long row of raspberries. Netting is useless, since it clings to the plants and the birds eat their dessert through the mesh. To tie up all the bushes in cheesecloth yashmaks would cost as much as a summer's supply of raspberries. So I tied a string on occasional posts all along the row of canes, and pinned sheets of newspaper to the string, so thatching our bushes. Birds won't venture under these crackling petticoats, the fruit ripens perfectly, and the total cost is a ball of string, a few posts, the daily paper and threepennyworth of pins. *The Times* is best as it is toughest. Besides, the birds can read those recurrent letters signed 'British Bird-lover' saying that birds never eat fruit, it is all a wicked slander, it must have been the cat, followed by indignant letters signed 'British Cat-lover', saying that cats never, and it must have been lightning or boys.

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