J. P. Prickett.

Fruit Gatherer.

No. 101,040. Patented Mar. 22, 1870.

Fig. 1.

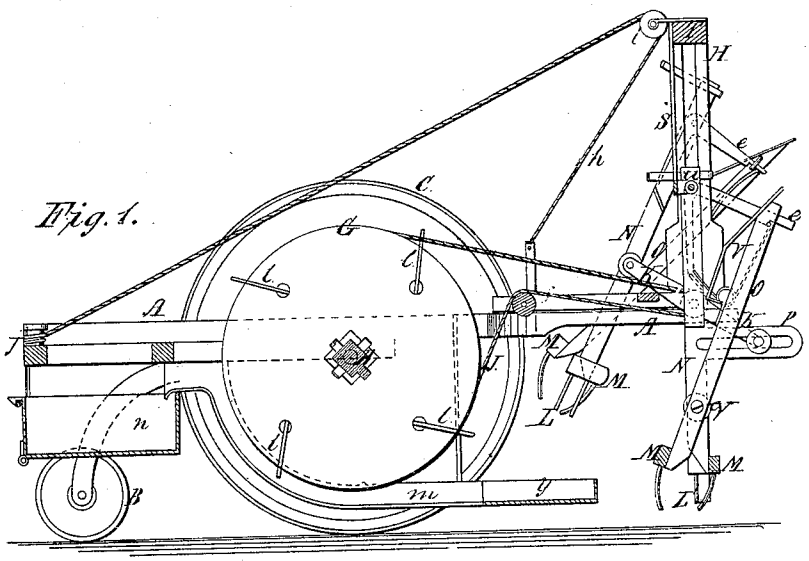


Fig. 2

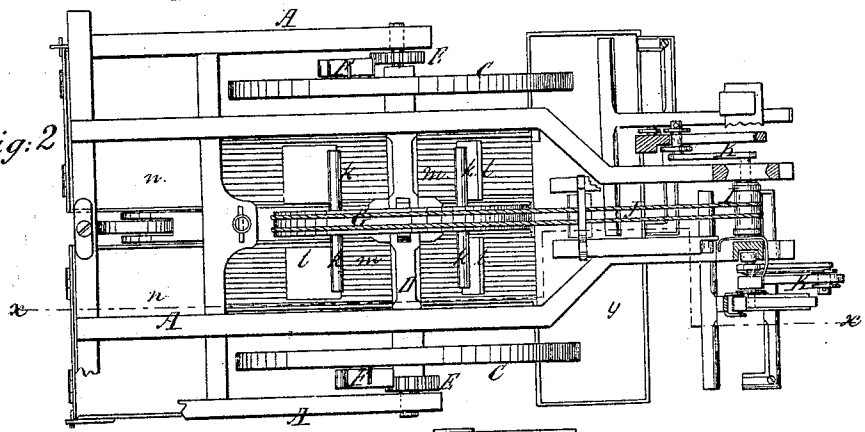
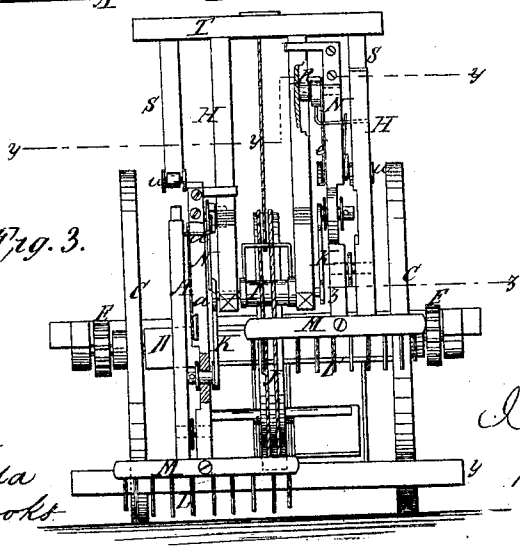


Fig. 3.



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JOSHUA P. PRICKETT, OF MEDFORD, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND JOSEPH C. HINCHMAN, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 101,040, *dated March* 22, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINE FOR PICKING CRANBERRIES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSHUA P. PRICKETT, of Medford, in the county of Burlington and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machines for Picking Cranberries; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification.

This invention relates to a new and useful improvement in a machine for picking or gathering cranberries, whereby that slow and tedious operation (usually performed by hand) is performed by machinery, and in the most expeditious manner; and

It consists in the construction and arrrangement of parts operating as hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 represents a vertical section of the machine through the line *x x* of fig. 2.

Figure 2 is a plan view, partly in section, as through the lines *y y* and *z z* of fig. 3.

Figure 3 is a front view.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This machine is mounted on two wheels, from the revolving axle of which the operating parts of the machine are driven.

A is the frame-work, which is mainly supported by the said axle, but the rear portion of which is supported by a single bearing-wheel B.

C C represents the main driving-wheels.

D is the axle. These wheels are loose on the axle, so that they revolve on a retrograde motion without revolving the axle.

On each end of the axle (within the bearings) there is a ratchet-wheel, E, and on each wheel there is a pawl, F, so adjusted that the pawls engage with the ratchet when the machine is moving forward, and thereby revolve the axle. On the back motion the pawls slip over the ratchet-teeth, and the wheels revolve freely on the axle.

On the middle of the axle D there is a band-wheel, G, firmly fastened, which revolves with the axle. A band, J, from this wheel operates the pickers. Supported on the forward portion of the horizontal frame A is an upright frame, H, at the base of which is a horizontal shaft, I, which is revolved by the band J, from the band-wheel G. The journals of this short shaft I pass through the sides of the upright frame H, and each journal is provided with a crank, K, and with a spiral spring above.

L L′ represent the pickers, which are two in number, each composed of two heads, M, (with curved wire teeth) placed on the ends of bars N and O. On the bars N there are slotted arms P. The wrist-pins of the cranks K work in these slotted arms, as seen in fig. 1.

The bars N O of the pickers L L′ are jointed together like a tongs at *q*. The outer sides of the uprights of the frame H are grooved, and on the inner sides of the picker-bars N there are pivots R, with friction rolls, which work in the grooves, and these bars have a vertical motion corresponding with the throw or stroke of the cranks, while the pivots R allow the lower ends of those bars N to swing laterally a distance corresponding with the stroke of the cranks.

S represents straps of brass or other suitable metal which hang from the cap-piece T of the frame H, having friction rolls *u* on their lower ends.

On the side of each of the picker-bars O there is a cam, V, seen in fig. 1. The bars N O being connected together by the pins *q*, are of course raised and lowered together by the cranks K.

The pickers are raised and lowered alternately. They are opened by operating upon the picker-bar O, by means of the cam V, as they are raised, so that they grasp a quantity of berries as they are lowered at each stroke.

When the picker in descending has been opened sufficiently wide, the bar O is held in position by means of the drop-catch or arm *e*, and the cam is relieved, which catch rests on the wire *d*.

e is an arm of a V-shaped piece or lever, which is pivoted at its angle to the inner side of the bar N. The other arm *e′* (fig. 3) is curved at the end. When the picker is at its lowest point the curved end of the arm *e′* strikes the crank or end of the crank-shaft, which throws up the arm *e*, whereby the wire leaves the catch, and the jaws of the picker instantly close.

The continued revolution of the cranks throw the pickers inward and upward, so that when they are carried over or nearly over the trough *y*, the cam V is brought in contact with the roller *u*, which opens the jaws, and the berries are deposited in the trough *y*.

After the berries are discharged the pickers continue to rise, and the bar O continues to be operated upon until the jaws are again wide open, when the catch again drops over the wire *d*, and holds them open until the grasp is made. This carries the wire *d* below the catch, and the jaws close by means of the spring *a*, which bears upon the wire. This operation is performed by each picker for each revolution of the shaft I.

In fig. 1, *f* represents a tightening frame and pulley for the band J, which is controlled by means of the cord *h* passing over the pulley *i* and fastened at the rear of the machine at *j*.

On the sides of the band-wheel G are arms *k*, with flexible wings *l*. As the trough *y* fills with berries,

the berries are swept back by the revolving wings *l*, through the inclined and circular channels *m m*, into the receptacles *n n* at the rear end of the machine. The bottoms of the channels *m m* are formed of longitudinal rods, as seen in fig. 2, so that any sand or dirt which may be taken up by the pickers with the berries may be screened out before the berries are deposited in the boxes *n n*. These boxes are provided with hinged doors, so that the berries may be readily removed therefrom. The machine is moved over the ground in any manner which may be found most convenient. The motion of the pickers is so adjusted that the entire ground is operated upon and all the berries stripped from the vines, thus greatly facilitating the operation of gathering the cranberry crop.

These machines may be made of any desired size and of any suitable material.

Having thus described my invention,

I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The pickers L L′, operated substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. In combination with a machine for picking cranberries, the upright frame H, with grooved sides for governing the vertical motion of the pickers.

3. The channels *m m*, with grated bottoms for screening the berries, in combination with the flexible wing *l* for moving the berries, substantially as shown and described.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 16th day of October, 1869.

JOSHUA P. PRICKETT.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. MABEE,

ALEX. F. ROBERTS.