

The pruning of trees and plants is done in England much more systematically than with us, the object there being well understood to be the shaping of the trees, and, still more particularly, the improvement of the size of the fruit, this last object being attained by allowing only the best and most vigorous fruit spurs to remain. The time has come when we in Ontario also must learn the lesson that there is no profit in growing scrubby fruit, and that our trees must not be allowed to exhaust themselves in maturing seed of so much worthless stuff. This waste of the fertility of the land is as great as when it is allowed to produce a crop of weeds. No doubt we might avoid this by careful thinning out of the young fruit while it is still small, say in the month of June. If we could spare the time to go over our trees carefully and remove all gnarly and scabby fruit at that season, both of pears and apples, the result would be most satisfactory; but this is usually neglected, because work in Ontario presses fruit growers so much harder than it does in the cooler climate of England. The result, same however, may be attained by careful pruning, making it a point to thin out all poor and weak growing fruit spurs.

Grape pruning is also done during this month in many parts of Ontario. The methods of pruning are almost as numerous as are the vineyards themselves, but some growers appear to be neglecting it almost altogether, a course which results in the production of a great deal of inferior fruit. A great point in the pruning of the grape is to reduce the amount of fruit-bearing wood, in order that fine bunches may be secured, and this is usually accomplished by leaving fruit spurs of new wood having two or three buds each. Some say that thirty or forty buds are enough for each vine, but, in common practice, there is usually at least double this number, and in thus reducing the number of fruit buds lies a point of great economic importance.

The various methods are planned more with an eye for beauty and to suit style of trellis employed. The system which presents the best appearance to the eye is the "Renewal," which has often been described in this journal, and which may be again explained at any time if asked for by any of our readers.

The principles above explained, apply with equal force to the pruning of small fruits. In all our plantations too many canes are left to grow, and most of these have much slender wood growth, near the tips of which the buds are weakly and will produce a poor quality of fruit. All weak canes should be removed and the weakly growth of the stronger ones should be cut off with the grape pruning shears.

The Tree Cricket is a very common enemy in the raspberry plantation, and we frequently receive inquiries from subscribers concerning it. Now is the best time to destroy it, by cutting off all affected portions and burning them, together with the eggs of this insect which they contain.

The gooseberry bush, if neglected, becomes a perfect mat of prickly canes, interfering both with the production of fruit, and also with the gathering of the same. These should be well thinned out, not shortened in as in the case of the