

HOW RINGING AFFECTS GRAPES.

tions tests have been carried on for two seasons in two localities. At Poughkeepsie the vines were trained on the two-arm Kiffin system and both arms of most of the vines tested were ringed beyond the fifth bud, four vines only being ringed beyond the renewal bud. No difference was noticed between these two methods; but great difference, particularly with some varieties, between ringed and unringed vines. Delaware ripened 9 days earlier, Niagara 14 days, Concord 17 days and Empire State 21 days; and there was a slight gain in size with Moore's Early and Niagara; but Delaware and Moore's Early showed a decided loss in quality, and Worden's tendency to crack was decidedly increased. Two vines of Niagara ringed beyond the renewal bud, succumbed to the treatment, dying before the second season was over. The results of the second season, which was dry and hot toward its close, were not so marked. Empire State was the only variety to show gain in size and hasten maturity.

At Lodi the renewal system is used and vines were ringed just beyond the renewal bud. All varieties tested showed a gain in size, compactness of bunches or earliness; this being quite

marked with Concord, Geneva and Niagara; but the quality of the finer-flavored sorts, as Delaware and Niagara, was inferior on the ringed vines. In the second season no new growth was allowed to form beyond the fruit on some of the ringed vines, the ends of the vines being trimmed off; and the quality of fruit was improved on such vines. As at Poughkeepsie, the differences in size and earliness were not so striking as in the preceding season.

These experiments tend to show that ringing will mature grapes of some varieties earlier, and will make larger and more compact bunches; but the amount of difference will vary with the variety, season, condition of foliage, cultural care, and quantity of fruit allowed to mature on the vine. The quality of finely flavored grapes is liable to be lowered; but this may be remedied to some extent by trimming ringed vines so but little new growth forms. With careful management the vitality of the vines need not be seriously impaired.

The question of desirability of ringing and profit therefrom is one which each grower must decide for himself.—Geneva Bul. 151.

WHALE-OIL soap should cost about four cents per pound when bought in quantity. It requires no preparation other than dissolving in water, and ordinarily is easily applied. Care should be observed to get an article that will not turn to jelly when dissolved at this rate, for jellied soap is very difficult to spray. The above strength, two pounds to a gallon, should never be applied except in the winter when the trees are entirely dormant, for an application when the buds are swelling or when the leaves are on the tree is sure to do great injury to the tree.

PROPAGATING STRAWBERRIES.—If one has a variety of strawberry desirable for propagation, it is a good practice to peg down the earliest runners close to the ground. If small stones are at hand, one placed at the end of the runner will do as well. Pegs are easily made, cutting twigs into lengths of eight or ten inches, and splitting them. They will then bend like hair-pins; or tooth-picks may be utilized. If small pots of rich earth be placed under the runner's bud, so much the better for an early and strong plant.