
Pruning Fruit Trees

Thus we have a green shoot growing from the base of each of the shortened side shoots of last year. As they increase in length they must be tied down to the trellis very gently, or they will break off; if they are allowed to reach the roof glass, it is likely that they will be spoilt. When the bunch is prominent, and the shoot has produced two leaves beyond the bunch, its point is pinched out; other secondary shoots will form, but these must be "stopped" when one leaf has developed. It is important to pinch off the end of the side shoot at two leaves beyond the bunch, or, if it bears no bunch, when four or five leaves have formed, and to "stop" all other smaller shoots; otherwise the trellis becomes covered with a mass of growths that retain a lot of moisture and may help to give rise to an attack of mildew. That is all there is in pruning the Vine.

The following season the same routine is practised; in autumn the side shoots, or laterals, as they are called, are shortened by half, and in January they are further cut back to within one or two buds of the point from which they started to grow the previous season. If this practice is followed, stunted, even gnarled, spurs will form where the side shoots are cut back annually, and the Vine can be kept within limits