

entire shoots, until he is satisfied that they may have no more fruit than they will have leaves to ripen. This completed, the canes, and from time to time, the shoots, are brought up, and secured to the trellis wires. No summer pruning or punching is to be resorted to, and nature proceeds with the work of maturing the fruit.

Many grapes treated in this way have been found free from disease; whilst others planted in the same kind of soil, but which have been pruned in accordance with the ordinary method, have been badly stricken with mildew.—*Journal of Horticulture*.

NOTE BY THE HORT EDITOR. We heartily endorse so much of the above article as relates to wide planting, and long pruning, without summer pruning; but we fail to be able to appreciate the necessity of fall or winter pruning, and believe that it can only be advocated on the ground of convenience, the spring being so short that it is a great gain to do all that can be done before the rush of spring work comes on. However, if fall or winter pruning is to be done, we would most heartily commend the course above suggested, for it is not safe in this climate to prune close in the fall. But we see no reason why the whole pruning can not be done in the early spring, in March in some places and seasons, in April in others. The idea that the vine can not be safely pruned at that time is giving way before the test of experience; and the fine-sounding expressions about "the critical period of the starting of vegetation," etc., etc., are to be considered merely as rhetorical flourishes.

Vine Culture and Garden Talk.

Some time since, when giving a description of our wire fences for vines, and application of manure to them, I promised to state results, as well as part of the process, in some future communication. Our vines are Hartford Prolific, Delaware, Black Cluster, Concord and Isabella, several of each kind.

Our course of training has hitherto been to nail the vine to a board fence having a southern aspect. This fence blew down last spring, and we substituted heavy wires, strained from post to post, the posts nicely planed and pitched at bottom to prevent decay, and placed about twelve feet apart. We consider, after this summer's trial, that the wire does not answer so well for the fruit as the board fence, but the appearance is very pleasing. The fruit sets better against the boards, and is somewhat earlier, but our manure is peculiar and our stronghold, and consists of nightsoil pumped direct from the vault, and poured all around the vines, on earth previously loosened with the fork, to the extent in surface of about six feet square, and in quantities of about six pailsful to each vine. This is the third year we have used this manure in this manner, and our success is most complete, notwith-

standing the absence of the fence on which to train the vines. We have had a most excellent crop, and the quality has been pronounced by good judges as quite equal to hothouse grapes; indeed some preferred the fine fresh flavour of those grown in the open air with us to that of the hothouse production.

We attribute the quality as well as quantity, entirely to the manure, and the shoots for another year are really prodigious, many of them being twenty feet long, and some as thick as the forefinger of the hand—and I have rather a large heavy one, having of late years done a good deal of work with it. We are now fully convinced that the plan we have adopted is good, and works to perfection. We have a large puncheon sunk in the earth, and therefore quite tight, from which we pump every fall, about November, 70 to 80 pailsful of soil, and distribute as before described. I am sure we have gathered at least 250 pounds of grapes off our vines, 12 in number, and extending 170 feet in length. At 15c. a pound wholesale, the produce would have been worth nearly \$40 to purchase. But it has always been a maxim of ours that any luxury that we can produce may be used *ad libitum*. We are economical enough in all we cannot raise, but we consider, where a little extra care or attention, combined with industry, can furnish luxuries in abundance, we have a full right to enjoy the result without stint.

This principle works well in any family, and is a source of much contentment under some deprivation in things we cannot raise, and of great enjoyment in others that we can. There is to us great satisfaction in seeing our friends feast on such home productions, and we heartily advise our brother farmers to cultivate the same feeling, and at the same time add to their store of enjoyment any luxuries that may be within their reach on these terms. These little matters make home what home should be to every family—a place to look back upon in after life as one of sunshine and comfort; and when hereafter, our children are singing some of the old and beautiful songs that men of taste and refinement have written and will yet write on home and its surroundings, what if it does bring the water into a strong man's eyes at the retrospective thought?—there are few men, and no woman, young or old, but would readily forgive and appreciate it.

Whilst on the subject of the garden, I may mention the large size of our apples. We have two trees that produce many barrels, and numbers of these apples measure 13 inches in circumference, and some weigh 1½ pounds. Of course, this great weight is not attained by many,

Our young trees, planted out only four clear years, bore pretty well last year and this also, but the dry spring caused bushels of little apples, the size of nuts and walnuts,

to fall off before coming to maturity. Three or four of our best young standard and dwarf pear trees have died down to the root without any apparent reason. The leaves turned quite black a month since, and the trees seem sure to die.

If any of your correspondents can give some advice for the prevention or explain the cause of this, they would certainly merit and receive our best thanks, as I fear the same disorder will extend to the rest of our orchard, and I am getting too old to afford time to plant young trees much longer for me to hope to see them bear fruit; but my children may, and one of the comforts of a farm and garden is that hereafter your children will look back on the plantation as the work of their father's hand, and no doubt the recollection will be as pleasant to them as the prospect is to the father. So we will plant away as long as we live; some one will be here to enjoy it, and our children may thus be induced never to part with the homestead, on which we have spent so much personal exertion for them. C.

Twitchell's Acidimeter.

The able editor of the *Grape Culturist*, published at St. Louis, Mo., states in the September number that he has submitted one of these instruments to a thorough trial on some eight varieties of wines, and after this test of its usefulness confidently recommends it as the only safe and practical instrument of the kind he has seen, and which any person of common intelligence can use with perfect safety. The action of this instrument is based upon the well-established fact that where an excess of carbonate is added to a liquid containing an acid, there will be given off carbonic acid gas in exact proportion to the amount of acid there was in the liquid. This instrument is so made that the exact amount of acid in the liquid can be read off from a graduated scale, without any calculations or corrections. It fills a much felt want, and should be in the hands of every careful wine maker, and we notice it now so that those who are interested in this matter can supply themselves in season for the present vintage.

Blackberries.

The experience of another season seems to be in favour of the Kittatinny, on account of its ability to endure the climate, and the large crop of handsome fruit. It is a most vigorous grower, and throws up numerous suckers, which require to be kept under. The canes should be kept pinched back to a height of four feet, and have plenty of room to branch out, and the branches be also pinched in at three feet. The canes are armed with fearful thorns, but this is true of all, and we must put up with them until some person introduces a really valuable blackberry without thorns.