

season's growth. The red currant produces most of its fruit on spurs, which develop from wood of two or more years old; but as the fruit on older wood gradually becomes inferior, it is best to depend upon wood of not more than three years old for the crop. For this reason, a supply of young wood must be maintained to replace the old, which is removed after having borne a second crop. The black currant, on the other hand, produces its most and best fruit on one and two-year-old wood. It is best to remove the branch after it is two years old, or at most three years old, and to permit a supply of young wood to grow to take its place.



Fig. 68. Black Currant.



Fig. 69. Black Currant.

Each bud produces from one to three or four bunches of fruit and as many leaves. The fruit spurs with their buds in groups are usually terminated with a leaf bud, which continues the growth of the spurs.

Fig. 63 shows a branch of the red currant of one, two and three-year-old wood. The fruit buds are in groups on short spurs on the two and three-year-old wood. Such a branch as this after producing its crop might profitably be removed. Although it may continue to produce fruit, it does so in diminishing quantities, and will not be as productive as younger wood. Cutting back tends to produce side shoots and spur growth. Fig. 64 shows a long shoot which will take the former's