

GRAPES.

Success in the culture of the Grape does not so much depend upon the nature of the soil as upon its condition. Should the ground be wet, or sour, no manuring, pruning, or care will make the vine profitable; and, on the other hand, it may be said, that however suitable the soil and situation, it is essential that pruning, pinching back, thinning, and protection in winter be carefully attended to.

We should recommend beginners to start with but few varieties, not more than one or two of each; should they be successful with these, they may, in the course of a few years, by layering or other methods, raise from their own vines enough to plant acres. As to selection, one will naturally choose such plants as have shown themselves most suited to the soil.

We would remind our readers that all vines of the same species do not always show a like result, even when planted within twenty yards of each other; several instances having occurred in which one vine bore abundantly, while another, alongside, from some unknown cause, has remained sickly and weak. No species ought to be discarded as worthless previous to giving it a fair trial.

Some vines, which in a low situation are subject to mildew, are perfectly hardy and free from that disease when tried on a higher level. Instead of removing the old vine, it is preferable to start fresh plants from layers, selecting for these such spots as show the greatest difference of soil.

We would recommend the following rules:

- 1st.—Ground thoroughly under-drained.
- 2nd.—Well pulverized garden soil; the richer the better.
- 3rd.—A southern exposure, where the full benefit of the morning sun may be had. Fruit will ripen at least a week sooner, if grown against a wall or fence. Protection by means of a belt of trees or fence, against the cold north and east winds, is a great safe-guard in our northern climate.
- 4th.—A covering of from four to six inches of earth or other material in winter.
- 5th.—Constant, but not severe pruning; a certain amount of foliage being requisite to bring fruit to perfection.

The renewal system (*i. e.*, that a cane should be allowed to grow to replace the fruit-growing cane of the same season, which is cut out in the fall,) has proved the most successful.

6th.—That the vine should not be allowed to overbear, which under good cultivation it is sure to do; the consequences being seriously felt in succeeding years.