

SUMMER PRUNING GRAPES.



HE time to commence is when the young shoots are six to eight inches long, and as soon as you can see all the young bunches of the embryo fruit. We pinch with thumb and finger just beyond the last bunch and the next leaf. If the shoots are not sufficiently developed to show their condition (the setting of the fruit) we pass them by and go over the vine again after a few days.

This early pinching of the young shoots has the tendency to throw all the vigor into the development of the young bunches and the leaves remaining over the shoots, which now develop with astonishing rapidity. It is a gentle checking and leading the sap into other channels—not the violent process which is often followed, long after the bloom, when the shoots have so hardened that the knife must be used, and by which the plant is robbed of a large part of its leaves to the injury of both fruit and vine.

Let anyone who wishes to satisfy himself summer-prune a vine according to this method and leave the next vine until after the bloom; he will soon be convinced which is best. Since I first practiced this method, now about twenty years, it has added at least one-third to the quantity and quality of my crop and is now followed by most of the intelligent growers of my State.

The bearing shoots all being pinched back we can leave the vines alone until after the bloom, only tying up the young canes from the spurs, should this become necessary. When they have bloomed the laterals will have started from the axils of the leaves on the bearing shoots. Then go over the vines again and pinch these back to one leaf. This will have a tendency to develop the remaining leaf very rapidly, enabling it to serve as a conductor and elevator of sap to the young bunch opposite and shading that as it becomes fully developed. The canes from the spurs, which we left unchecked at the first pinching, and which we design to bear fruit the next season may now also be stopped or pinched back when they are about three feet long, to start their laterals into stronger growth pinch off all the tendrils unless where they serve as supports to the young growth. This is a very busy time with the vine dresser and upon his close attention and diligence now depends in a great measure the value of his crop. A vast deal of labor can be saved by doing everything at its proper time.—PROF. HUSMANN, in *Vineyardist*.