

Treatment of Plum Trees and Grape Vines.

578. SIR,—Will you kindly inform me if it will now be too late to dress and trim young plum trees, varying in height from seven to ten feet, and four and five years in the ground? Bore a few plums last year, this year most of them heavily laden, but severely sprayed with sulphate of copper and the fruit very much destroyed. I wished them all to be topped, *i. e.*, about one-third of last year's growth to be cut off and so to make them *stocky* and strong, so as not to split when heavily laden in after years. Many also have been sprayed when the blossom seems to have been fully out. The same with many pear trees, young and old. The apple, mostly in full blossom now, have also been sprayed, were to have been all pruned, but not a branch cut as yet. Would it be better to let them alone till the fall? I mean the plum trees especially, but the others also. You will very much oblige if you will kindly advise me. Last year my grape vines were infested with a kind of round black scab. I sprayed them with sulphate of copper, which seems to be very effectual in causing the scab to peel off. But as it was not till the *very last* days of July that I knew of the remedy, and I dared to spray a second time only, the disease appeared when later on. A small bit of the sulphate (one ounce) seemed quite sufficient for 30 gallons of water to 200 grape vines.

GEO. STRANCHON, *Woodstock.*

Reply by Mr. John Craig, Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

I do not think it would be advisable at the present time to prune back your plum trees as severely as your letter leads me to believe that you intend to do. Such a severe heading-in, just at the season when they are making their most rapid growth, would be a dangerous blow to their vitality. Heading-in should be done in the fall or early spring. Your plum trees may be checked somewhat, by simply pinching back the ends of the terminal shoots; this may be done at once, and will prevent long straggling growths which are likely to be broken by wind-storms.

The grape vines you speak of are evidently affected by a disease called "Bird's-eye Rot"; this is best kept in check by close pruning and by spraying frequently with the Bordeaux mixture. Treatment should be commenced early and carried on until the fruit is nearly ripe, as the disease often develops on the fruit just before maturity. When the fruit is nearly ripe it is best to spray with the ammoniacal carbonate, as it does not discolor nor injure the berries and will not affect their sale.

* Our Book Table. *

BOOKS.

REPORT OF THE IOWA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, for the year 1893. Twenty-seventh annual session held at Des Moines, January, 1893. J. L. Budd, Ames, Iowa, Secretary. It includes papers on—"Commercial Orchards," "In the Vineyard," "Improvement of Small Fruits," "Ornithology and its Relation to Horticulture," "Fruit Insects," "Climate and its Effects on Apples," "Cross-fertilization," "Notes on Lawn Making," etc.

CATALOGUES.

BEEES AND HONEY. Illustrated Catalogue and Price List. A. J. Root, Medina, Ohio.