

form a new stand of canes between each two plants set; all others should be treated as weeds and cut out. This distance allows ample room for horse cultivation, and economy of time and labor is of more importance to the general farmer than a few additional rods of land. Before setting the plants the roots should be immersed in a pail of water, and this will cause the fine loose earth to adhere to them, when they will start growth much more readily. The holes for the plants should be made sufficiently large and deep to admit the fibrous roots without crowding, and the soil should be firmly compacted about the canes. This firming of the soil is an important point in setting out all kinds of plants or trees. The first season a row of low growing vegetable such as potatoes or beans may be grown to advantage between each two rows of the bushes. Frequent shallow cultivation should be given, and especially after showers of rain, as this will form an earth mulch which will serve to check evaporation and assist in retaining moisture. About the first of September, or

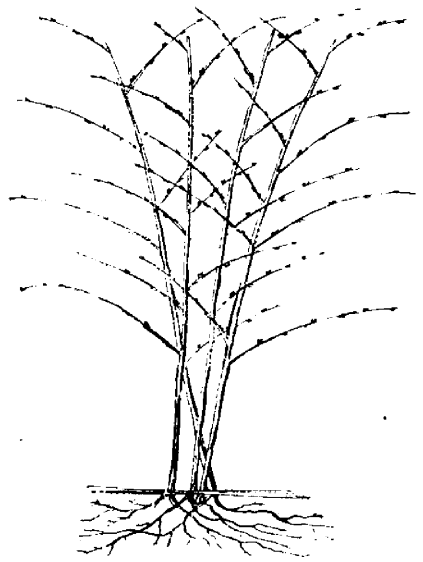


FIG. 1303.—TRIMMED BUSH.

soon after the vegetables have been harvested, the ground should be lightly ridged up to the plants with a one horse plow, leaving a furrow between each two rows of bushes. This protects the roots of the plants during the winter time and allows all surface water to flow rapidly away.

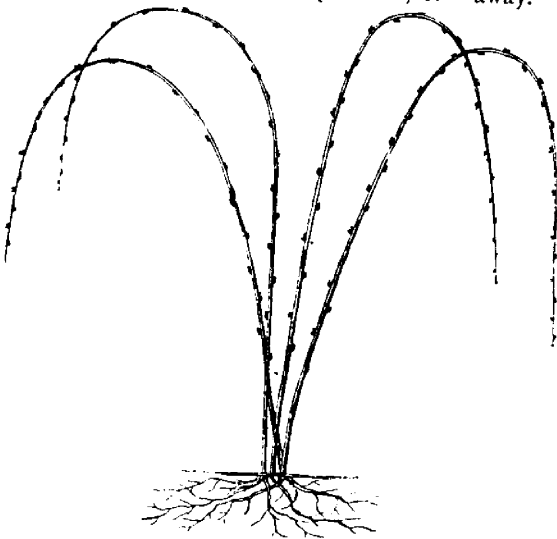


FIG. 1302.—UNTRIMMED BUSH.

I shall describe the method we use in pruning the bushes. In the charts Fig. 1302 represents a bush of the blackcap variety which has been left untrimmed. You will notice that the canes have grown very tall and spreading, and if left in this form they would prove a great drawback to cultivation and gathering the fruit, which would also be much soiled by drooping to the ground when the canes are heavily laden. Tying the canes to stakes is sometimes resorted to, but this is impracticable when a large acre-