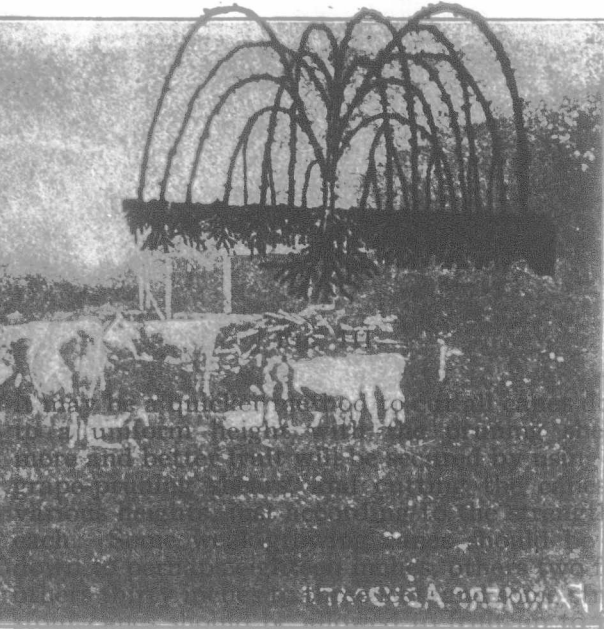


Pruning Bush Fruits.

By L. Woolverton, Grimsby, Ont.

Forty years ago, when a beginning was made of growing small fruits in Ontario for market, the notions about pruning them were very crude. The writer well remembers his early experience when, in trying to cultivate with a horse his father's small plantation of Lawton blackberry bushes. They had no canes whatever, the trees being trained to grow on old pickles, ready to break down from the weight of fruit. The canes were six feet in length. Neither horse nor man could pass under them. These "low" withers were a severe trial and withstanding them the writer was forced to quit. An attempt was made to break down the canes by a trail of fire, but the fire failed to hold them upright, but with the aid of a horse.



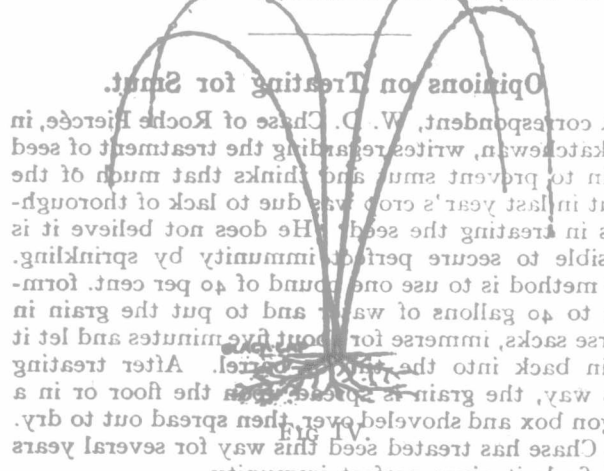
or five feet, or possibly not cut at all.

or five feet, or possibly not cut at all.

The Time for this work is in the early spring, for it will be evident if any tender tips are winter-killed. A mistake has been made by some in cutting back the raspberry canes in summer time, with the idea of encouraging new growth. It is advised for the blackberry, but this only results in producing a great number of slender, willowy growths, which are small and unproductive.

Pruning is best done in January or February. The fruit buds are on the berry canes, although sometimes the fruit buds are on the old wood of the previous year, and the spring new canes will bear numerous well-developed fruit buds. The stalks of the old canes should be cut off at the joints and the old wood should be cut off at the top, leaving as many as the cane needs to carry.

The fruiting canopy die off at the end of the season, and in the southern sections may be re-



moved in the fall if time is then less valuable.

on blanching, wintering if snow does not prevent, but
as this is a thin layer of snow, it is better to cover
with straw and thus give a winter protection.
In such case it is well to let them stand until
the first section of the blanching is as dry as the
other sections. It is still more necessary to
emphasize the blanching of the first section
before coming to grow without summer shortening
back because of the need for winter protection.
The main reason for the blanching is the fall and
weight on the heads so that the snow will cover
and protect them.

The Blackcap. I then put the seed wheat in Guney

Although the blackcap is a raspberry, as well as those referred to under the preceding heads, the habit of growth is distinct, and needs a different method of training. Instead of propagating itself by suckers, as do the other raspberries, the blackcap roots from the tips of the growing canes, which grow long and slender. Bend over, and take

Figure 2, shows a blackcap bush in the growing season, the tips making their way toward the ground for self propagation. If this is an object, the grower will encourage these tips to take root as soon as they approach the ground by throwing upon each a spadeful of fine earth, and ruffling it with the foot (Figure 3). Otherwise they will not allow the vine to waste strength in such long canes, but pinch the ends at a height of about two feet from the ground, and produce a system of fruiting laterals, such as are shown in Figure 2. These may in turn be pinched at the ends if they

The Shafter and the Columbia are crosses which have the habit of growth of the blackcap, and therefore need similar pruning.

proves with age. When properly protected it often im-
the cement is placed and covered to exclude
Cabbage in Alberta.

[illegible]

A cabbage is a hardy plant, but it is better not to stunt the little plants by exposing too much of them to the cold. The plants should be protected from severe freezing.

There is nothing so joyous, more interesting
than watching a thoroughly healthy
cattle plant grow in a field, and how soon one
has such an abundance of food, perhaps
double the amount of grain and a third of the
cost.

[illegible][illegible]

around each root. It can be quicker done than told. About ten days later I repeated the operation, and, as I said before, I never saw a worm on those cabbage, and they grew finely, averaging over 10 lbs per head. Not only does the small amount of water and salt peter fed directly to the root, stimulate plant growth, but I found

and that the insects are in the habit of burrowing into the dry soil at the root to lay their eggs; and whether the salt peter kills them or simply flakes the place offensive to them, I know not. The time of applying might need to be ascertained according to the earliness of the season.

I do not remember ever to have seen this salt peter treatment recommended, but I was led to try it for cabbage worms, because I knew it was offensive to insects, and from reading a story in which a very weak solution was mentioned as being a plant stimulant, while a stronger solution was very hurtful.

However, if many others may have used it for the same purpose, as many different kinds of plants happen to be the same remedy.