

his conditions, and even then he may often make mistakes in abnormal seasons. As the situation stands at the present time, and with our present knowledge of the disease and methods of control, no definite advice can be given that will hold for most cases.

Cutting out is necessary to check the spread of the disease where it occurs, but it should be the constant aim of the grower to produce conditions unfavorable for the development and spread of this disease. Cutting out alone will not keep it under control.

PRUNING.

It is a safe rule to follow when it is stated that as little pruning as possible should be given. It is the natural habit of the tree to bear fruit, and this it will do even under adverse conditions. It is not the purpose of pruning to make a tree produce fruit, but to produce better, cleaner and larger fruit, and possibly also in greater quantity.

Pruning is very often, and especially with the amateur, practised in order to make the tree more attractive in appearance and more symmetrical and pleasing to the eye in general. In many cases, this practice is carried too far, and fruit-bearing is sacrificed to symmetry. Another reason why with the pear as little pruning as possible should be practised is because pruning (especially in winter) ordinarily induces more rapid succulent growth, which is likely to prove susceptible to blight.

Prune young trees as little as possible. Thin out any limbs that cross or interfere with the proper spacing of the branches that will at a later date form the framework of the tree. Cutting back or heading in is not considered advisable. This may be necessary in exceptional cases in order to properly form or balance a tree, but it should be done out of extreme necessity only. Taken in conjunction with cultivation and manuring, the aim should be to maintain a very steady uniform growth, at no time forcing to the extreme.

A bearing tree is less susceptible to blight, but even here it is considered advisable to reduce pruning to a minimum. A little pruning regularly, March and August, might be considered a reasonable rule. The habit of growth varies a great deal, and must to some extent be taken into consideration. The long, loose, open growth of such varieties as Bose and Kieffer may be counteracted and brought within manageable bounds by a severe summer pruning about mid to late August after the trees have reached an age of five or six years.

FRUITING HABITS.

Pears, unlike the stone fruits, bear their fruit from terminal buds on short spurs. These spurs are found on two-year-old and older wood, and sometimes, but very seldom, fruit buds may be found terminating the growth of one-year-old wood. Such buds, however, as the latter seldom set fruit, and are of little importance to the fruiting habit of the tree. In a young and fast-growing tree, the spurs may become well developed on two-year-old wood, and as the tree increases in age continue to develop. They do not die out after one, two and three seasons of fruiting as in the case of plums.