

the most ready sale for ordinary varieties at home.

The favorite varieties of Rogers' seedlings, so far, have been Wilder, Lindley, Agawam, Salem and Barry. There are others that are excellent, as Massisoit, Merrimac, Requa and Herbert; and where they succeed and are sufficiently productive, these would all be good export varieties.

GIRDLING.

Some of our gardeners, who grow the Wilder, make a practice of girdling the vine for enlarging the size and hastening the ripening period. The success of their efforts has caused much jealousy at fairs over the exhibits, many claiming that such grapes ought not to compete with those not girdled or ringed. In our opinion it is a method of treatment open to any one who pleases, and in no sense only practicable by professionals, and therefore need not disqualify an exhibit any more than using a special fertilizer. If the judge finds a bunch of grapes on exhibition of which the flavor is inferior because ringed, let him count it down; or if it is abnormal in size, and so less desirable for the table, let it lose in the marking. We see no reason for a judge to question how the grapes were grown, so long as the samples are satisfactory and come under the proper class.

Prof. S. P. Maynard, of the Mass. Agricultural College, is an advocate of girdling, and we give his views as they appeared. Popular Gardening: "I have practiced girdling more or less for many years to test its

value in a scientific and economical way. The numerous experiments made in the college vineyard lead to the following results:

1. No injury to the vines girdled has ever been detected, even where the girdle was made on the main trunk near the ground.

2. The time of ripening is generally hastened by one or two weeks.

3. Careful sugar tests show no injury to the quality of the fruit.

4. The fruit was larger, more beautiful and sold for from three to five cents per basket more than that from ungirdled vines.

5. The best time to perform the work has been found to be early in July.

6. For reasons of economy of the forces of the vine, only a part of the cane of each vine should be girdled and only those that are to be cut away.

7. Annual arms should be grown for the purpose of girdling to bear the fruit, and a few unbearing ones for spurs to produce the canes for next year's girdling.

8. The best results were obtained when the ring of bark taken out was from one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch wide, according to the size of the cane girdled.

9. Good results were obtained when wires were twisted about the canes, but only when twisted very hard with pincers. For this purpose about No. 20 annealed wire was used and the work done late in June.

10. From our experience we believe that girdling will result in profit to the vineyardist, and in much pleasure to those who are growing choice late varieties.

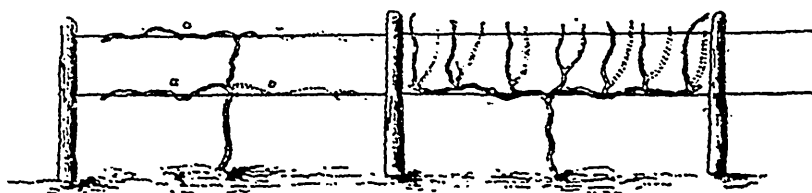


FIG. 2092. PROF. MAYNARD'S PLAN OF TRAINING THE VINE FOR GIRDLING.