

LAYERING THE GRAPE.

LAYERING is the simplest, surest and easiest method of increasing the grape, and is the best way to grow them where but few vines are wanted. There are two kinds of layers, called spring and summer layers, from the season at which they are made.

Summer layers are made in the summer, generally the last of July, from a branch of the same season's growth. They are likely to be weak for several years, and do not make as good plants as the spring layers. In making them, the wood should be slit for an inch or so near the buds that are covered. Bury about one foot of the cane four inches deep in the ground and it will be rooted by late autumn, when it should be separated and be treated as a young vine; and it is generally best to get them well started in a garden or nursery before planting in the vineyard permanently.

Spring layers may be made by laying down any cane early in the spring. It will root in one season. By fall it will have made a good growth of roots, when it may be cut from the main cane, and if strong it may be divided into two plants. This form of layer is illustrated



FIG. 1613.—A ROOTED LAYER.

FIG. 1614.—THE ROOTED LAYER SEPARATED, MAKING TWO PLANTS.

in Fig. 1613 and 1614. By a little different treatment of the spring layer a

vine may be grown from each bud on the layered cane. For this purpose some thrifty cane should be selected in autumn, pruned of its laterals, and buried. In the spring it should be uncovered and only one shoot permitted to grow from each joint. After the new growth has started about six inches from each bud the whole cane should be layered about four inches deep, handling it carefully so as not to break the new growth.

Fig. 1615 shows such a layer after it has rooted. It is a good plan to cover it not more than three inches at first, and to fill up the trench as the shoots grow. If covered four inches deep at once the young growth will sometimes rot, though this seldom happens, and some skilful growers fill the trench full at once. In the autumn, roots will be found growing from each joint, and these

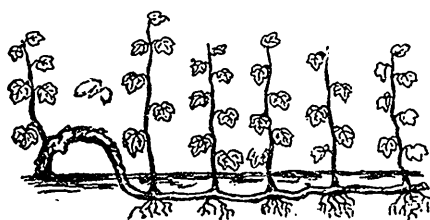


FIG. 1615.—A ROOTED LAYER, EACH BUD MAKING A NEW PLANT.

may be cut apart and treated as recommended for weak vines grown from cuttings. If this method of propagation is to be used to some considerable extent vines should be grown especially for the purpose. It is not a good plan to use fruiting vines for layering to any great extent, though it may be safely done in a small way.—S. B. Green.