

under as well as the upper sides of the leaves. A syringe with a bent nozzle is the best instrument with which to apply the liquid to the lower sides of the leaves.

The red spider can be held in check

by syringing the leaves with clear water ; in dry times this should be done every day. If the rose bug, *Melolontha subspinoso*, makes its appearance, which is not very often, it can be destroyed by the Insect Exterminator.

PRUNING TREES AND VINES.

DEAR SIR,—I would like to have your opinion on the proper method and time for trimming and pruning fruit trees, shade trees, grape vines, etc. In a great many orchards very little pruning is done. Some people let the trees go without pruning until the limbs become very large, and then cut out large limbs in the centre, leaving the stump sticking out from the trunk—in my opinion, a very good way to start the tree to rot. I have seen trees that it would require a twenty-foot ladder to prune the thick brush off the ends of the limbs, so that the sun could get near the fruit. Is it right to cut out the centre of a tree ?

Grape vines are often allowed to run over fences and buildings year after year without pruning, only having bearing wood on the ends many feet from the roots, the buds having been killed out by the steel bug in the spring, or the frost in the winter, as very few lay them down, as they should be in this cold latitude. I have had to cut out vines one half of which were dead and useless wood. I think a few good practical hints to slovenly fruit growers through your journal would do much good. Many here do their pruning in winter, but I prefer to do it when the blossoms are on the fruit trees, when the maple is coming out in leaves ; and the grape vines late in the fall, after the leaves are off. Am I right ? Trusting that this will not only find space in your journal, but that you will make some comments on it.—W. C. SEARLE, Clinton, Huron Co.

Probably there is no subject upon which more confused notions exist than with regard to the time and manner of pruning trees and vines. Some who pretend to know give such definite advice as, "Prune when your knife is sharp," and others advocate no pruning at all. Some say

prune in the winter, some in summer, and others in the fall. In the multiplicity and contrariety of the advice, who wonders that we see so many slovenly kept trees throughout our country ?

First, with regard to the TIME of pruning. We have under this head a very old adage, which it is well to remember, viz.: "Prune in winter for wood, in summer for fruit," and probably no better general rule could be given. The philosophy of this is explained by the fact that anything which checks the wood growth of the tree tends to the metamorphosis of leaf buds into fruit buds ; and, on the contrary, that which favors wood growth lessens that tendency. Thus, while a tree is young and growing rapidly, it produces no fruit ; but when it has attained a certain degree of maturity, and grows less vigorously, it begins to produce fruit. On the same principle it is that a tree that has been girdled will often be overloaded with blossoms, though not yet of the usual bearing age, or limbs which are artificially bent down will yield fruit before the other limbs of the same tree. Now, summer pruning checks the growth