

on a trellis, with its luxuriant ample foliage, and rich pendulous clusters of fruit, is really one of the most interesting objects in a fruit garden, and, at the same time, one of the most profitable; for the shade and ornament alone that it produces, are a sufficient recompense for its culture.

In planting a grape vine the first point is to prepare a border for the roots.

This must, in the first place, be perfectly dry. If the soil or situation be wet or damp, it must be drained thoroughly, so that no stagnant moisture can exist in it. In the next place it must be deep—three feet is a good depth; and it must not be less than two where abundant and fine crops are expected. The mode of preparation is, to dig out the natural soil to the required depth, and the length and width necessary. For a single vine, the border should be eight or ten feet long and four wide.

When the excavation is made, if the soil be stiff or damp, a few inches, or a foot deep, of small stones, brick, rubbish, etc., may be laid on the bottom as a sort of drainage. On the top of this deposit the compost for the border. This may consist of two parts of good, fresh, friable loam, one of old, well-rotted manure, and one of ashes, shells, broken bones, etc., all completely mixed with one another. The top of the border, when finished, should be at least a foot higher than the surface of the ground, so that it may still remain higher after settling. Having the border thus prepared, the next point is the *trellis*. The form of this will depend on the situation it is to occupy and the mode of training to be adopted. The following description has been designed for a wall. The principal bars or outside frame-work are inch and a half boards, three inches wide, nailed together at the angles.

It is intended for one vine, and may be the height of the wall that it is intended to occupy. The vertical or upright bars are three feet apart and the cross ones six feet; between them are rods of stout wire. The first or lowest cross bar may be two feet from the ground. It is fastened to the wall by iron hooks or brackets. The best and simplest mode of training a vine on such a trellis as this, is to produce two main branches or arms to be trained in a horizontal manner on the first cross bar. From these two arms, permanent, upright canes are trained, one to each of the upright bars of the trellis. These upright canes produce on their sides a succession of bearing shoots from year to year, being pruned after what is called the "spur" system.

*Planting the Vine.*—As in planting any other tree, the roots should be carefully spread out, and the fine earth worked well in amongst them. Its position should be exactly in the centre of the trellis it is to be trained on.

*Pruning.*—It must first be observed that the grape vine bears its fruit on shoots of the current year, produced from eyes on the previous year's wood. It is important to understand this, because it shows the necessity of keeping up a supply of young wood wherever we desire fruit to be produced.

To illustrate the pruning, we will suppose the plant to be one or two years old, as ordinarily sent out from the nursery. It may have only one shoot, or it may have several. However this may be, all are pruned off but the strongest, and it is cut back to within two eyes of its base. These two eyes will produce shoots, and when they have made a growth of two or three inches, the weaker one is rubbed off and the strong one trained up. It is allowed to grow on till September, when the bud is pinched to mature and strengthen it. Any side shoots that appear during the summer, should be pinched off, as well as any suckers that may appear about the roots.

*Second Year.*—If the shoot of last year made a strong growth of ten or twelve feet, it may be now cut back to three eyes, and two canes be trained up; but if it made only a weak growth, it should again be cut back to two eyes, and one shoot only trained up. Side shoots and suckers are pinched off during the summer; and in September these canes are stopped as before, and no fruit is allowed.

*Third Year.*—We have now two strong canes with which we commence the frame-work of the vine. Each of these is cut back at the winter pruning to within two or three feet of its base, and laid in, and fastened to the lower horizontal bar of the trellis. The bud on the end of each, will produce a shoot to continue the prolongment in a horizontal direction, and a bud on the upper side of each will produce a shoot to be trained to one of the upright bars—the first one on its division, or half of its trellis; all others are rubbed off, or the buds cut out. Thus each of these arms produces two shoots—an upright and a horizontal one. During the summer, these shoots are carefully tied in as required, and side shoots and suckers pinched off when they appear. They are also topped off in September, as before.

*Fourth Year.*—Each of last year's