

It is very important that the roots of no other plant occupy the soil near the newly planted vine. Its roots will stand a poor chance among those of an established tree or vine. Neither should strong growing varieties be planted near weak ones. Many a grape of real merit has been condemned as a poor grower because such gross feeders as the Concord have robbed it. I have an Isabella vine that has struggled between two Concords nine years, and has made but little headway, while they are increasing in strength. Few people have any idea of the distance a tree will send its roots. I read of a gardener who cut down a row of elms because their roots interfered with the flower beds three hundred feet distant.

DISTANCE APART.

That vines may be set three feet apart each way, and be kept in bearing condition, I have no doubt. Thirteen years ago I planted a lot of vines in a row thirty inches apart, and two in a place. The second year I allowed one in each place to bear a large crop, and then cut it away in the fall. These vines have remained in good condition ever since, although as much fruit might have been produced if they had been thinned first to five feet apart and then to ten.

The above cases are given to show what may be done—not what should be done. My experience leads me to believe that a vine is more likely to continue in health if it be allowed to increase in size—to have more room each year. In nearly every instance a thinning of the vines in a vineyard has been followed by satisfactory results. One grower who has thinned till his vines stand 15 feet apart each way, claims to have found the best distance. For a vineyard I prefer about eight feet each way, and for a town lot I would stick them wherever I could find

room. It is well, when vines are worth but a few cents apiece, to plant two or three times as many as are wanted, and the extra ones may be allowed to bear heavily—one-half the second year, and the other the third, and then be cut away. This gives the permanent vines a fine chance to get strong before they bear. A vine may be extended to any distance along a trellis or support, but it requires time. It should not be lengthened more than two or three feet in any direction in a single season.

CHOICE OF VARIETIES.

What to plant is an important question and should be carefully considered. Very much will depend on the grower. If he understand the wants of the vine, and can supply them, he can raise any variety, and should choose only such as are desirable. It is very unsatisfactory to spend money, time and skill in raising an inferior article—especially if it be for one's own. It is always well for beginners to plant some Concord and Worden vines, for they are very reliable and quite good.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.

To prepare the soil for grapes is to make it dry and rich. If you want to do more than this, make it drier and richer. It is not sufficient that it be well under-drained, so that water will not lie, but the surface water should be allowed to get off before the ground becomes saturated. Then plow and harrow thoroughly, as for any other crop.

FERTILIZERS.

Thoroughly decomposed barn-yard manure is sufficient for the grape or any other crop we cultivate. In its absence, bone dust and ashes answer all purposes. Nitrogenous manures cause a rapid growth, but they should never be used where the highest flavored fruit is desired. The choicest wine is made from grapes grown on poor, rocky