

PACKING GRAPES FOR MARKET.—The packing of grapes for market is a delicate operation and one in which both care and judgment should be exercised if the best results are desired. In the preparation of the fruit before it is matured and ready for clipping, much attention is necessary. It will not do to allow the grape-vines to fruit to their full capacity, any more than it will do to permit peaches, plums, and apricots to set at will. Thinning is the first requisite in the growing of perfect fruit, and especially is this true of grape growing.

Having thinned your fruit bunches, bear in mind that when the grapes ripen only perfect bunches should be picked for packing. Provide your pickers with crates or trays holding about 25 pounds each. As fast as these trays are filled have them carefully placed in the packing house in racks so that the bottoms of one tier of crates will not rest on the fruit of the tray below it. In this packing house the grapes should remain for from thirty to forty-eight hours before being packed in the baskets. This is for the purpose of permitting the stems to wilt and thus admit of close and easy packing.

This wilting process is one of the most essential points in successful packing. Baskets can be filled without the danger of sweating, molding or crushing the fruit, and will "hold out" in weight without settling. Unless this wilting process is practised, grapes will go to market in second-class condition and bring second-class prices. Pack solidly, selecting bunches that will "mate" well in layering. Many grapes sent to market last year were poorly packed. Let the error be avoided this year.—*Field and Farm.*

SNIDE PACKAGES.—The practice so prevalent of sending fruits to market in short measure packages is nothing more or less than a device to deceive buyers, and make them pay for what they do not get, and, in an occasional instance, when goods are very scarce, is a success; but the trade has become so accustomed to such schemes that they usually examine the dimensions of the packages carefully and avoid the "snide" stock, except at a greatly reduced price, and the sooner shippers realize this fact the better for all concerned. The cost of package, picking and freight, the labor of packing, nailing and handling a wine-measure case of berries is just the same as an honest dry measure case, and the small amount of berries saved to the grower is largely counterbalanced by the much lower price the dealer is forced to accept when they reach the market, and is aptly illustrated by the ancient bung and spiggot story. The sooner the shippers realize the fact that buyers who are on the market every day are not such idiots as not to know the difference between a peck and a third bushel box, or between a full or short measure case of berries, that they have a great many different lots to select from, that they are usually shrewd business men and close buyers, that they buy with a view to the profit there is in the article, that they are almost universally people that cannot be imposed upon, the sooner they will realize the fact that it does not pay to use "snide" packages, and the sooner the fruit trade will cease to be a "scalping," and become a legitimate business.—E. P. HOLLISTER in *Fruit Growers' Journal*.