

## PRUNING RASPBERRIES AND CURRANTS.

No. 484.

SIR,—Would some one give, through your Journal, the best plan of pruning and trellising grapes and raspberries?

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Elsewhere in this number we have treated of summer pruning of the grape. The same caution needs to be observed in raspberries and blackberries as in grapes, viz., that it is unwise to remove very much foliage in the summer season, as this is a serious check upon the growth. All such work should be done by pinching, and thus simply stopping the young growth at the proper place. We give an extract from *American Gardening* on trellising these fruits, which seems to us to be interesting.

## TRELLISES FOR GRAPES AND RASPBERRIES.

Notwithstanding the warning given me six or seven years ago—that grapes could not be grown successfully on the shores of Cayuga Lake—I made the experiment, and am satisfied that there is no better grape-land in the state than can be found on the west shore in Seneca county. So far, my vineyard has escaped the late frosts in spring and early frosts in fall, and the grapes are of the very best quality.

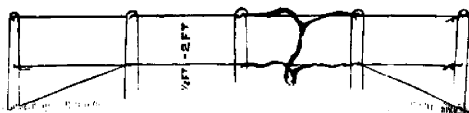


FIG. 62.—GRAPE-TRELLIS.

Our soil is a sand and gravel loam with shale subsoil. The plants are set 9 x 9 feet, trained on the Kniffin system, and trimmed on the renewal plan. The first wire is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the ground, and the second 2 feet above the first. The lower arms are started first; then I start a cane as near 18 inches from the ground as I can get it and carry this to the second wire. By this plan I get a much more even distribution of fruit than by the old method. This is my method of putting on the lower wire: First the wire is made fast to bottom of end posts, and staples are driven in all the other posts except the second from the end. Here we use a wire-spike, driving it at an angle of 45 degrees. When the wire has been tightened, we lift it over the head of spike. This brings the strain, or pull, on the bottom of the end posts, and does away with braces. When you wish to slacken the wires in the fall, lift them from the spikes and you have them as slack as you want them. This leaves a space without wire between the first and second posts at both ends. You can use short pieces to fill in these spaces—No. 9 wire should be used. I send herewith a rough sketch (fig. 62) of the wire when in position, holding a vine as I trim and train it. I find four or five buds to an arm are enough.

I have visited a great many vineyards in this and other states, and have tried several ways of trimming and training, but have adopted this one as the