

# Training the Grape Vine.—Just where the Pruning Shears should be Used.

## THE KNIFFIN SYSTEM ILLUSTRATED.

**T**HERE are few homes, either in city or country, that are not graced or disgraced by one or more grape vines. When properly trained, no vine is more ornamental, to say nothing of the beautiful fragrant, luscious fruit such a vine will produce. However, nothing is more unsightly than a neglected, scrubby, straggling grape vine, whose great weight of useless wood causes it to break down its support, and collapse into an undignified brush-heap. About the only remedy for such a vine is to saw it off close to the ground, in early Spring, select one of the stronger new shoots, and allow it to begin life anew under rigid discipline and improved conditions.

Of the various methods of grape-training, none is more popular, practical, or especially suitable for the busy farmer than the Kniffin system. For the benefit of those who planted grape vines last Fall, as well as those who intend to do so this Spring, I fully illustrate the most popular modification of the Kniffin plan of training, from the baby vine as it should appear during this, its first season's growth, to the age at which it may be considered a "mature vine"—five years from planting.

We will suppose that well-grown, one-year-old plants are used. Having been carefully planted, a trifle deeper than it stood in the nursery row, cut the little vine back to two or three plump, healthy buds. Only one of these is allowed to grow, however, the extra bud or buds being simply held in reserve in case of accident, removed as soon as it is evident that they will not be needed.

Fig. 1 shows the baby vine during its first season's growth. The pruning of this little vine, the following spring, consists in cutting it back at the point indicated by a line in Fig. 1, which is about 12 or 11 inches from the ground. Ordinarily, this "stub" will contain from four to six strong buds. Only two of these buds—the upper two—are allowed to grow during the second season, and they will develop as shown at Fig. 2. At this stage, the trellis should be provided. Only two wires are necessary. The upper one should be about six feet from the ground, and the lower 2½ feet below it. The position of the wires and the pruning of this two-year-old vine are very clearly shown in Fig. 3. It is now ready for its third season's growth, in which we may expect a sample of its fruit. Only the upper two buds of each division of the trunk are permitted to grow—those below them being rubbed off. These young shoots

may be trained in either direction upon their respective wires, and each will produce from two to four fine clusters of fruit.

Fig. 4 shows a young Concord during its third summer and laden with its first



Fig. 5  
PRUNING AFTER FRUITING



Fig. 4  
CROP OF FRUIT



Fig. 3  
SECOND PRUNING

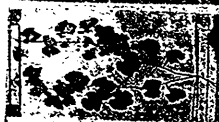


Fig. 2  
THE SECOND SEASON



Fig. 1  
THE FIRST VINE

crop of fruit. The pruning of this three-year-old vine consists in cutting each arm back to six or eight strong buds, when it will appear as shown in Fig. 5. The arms must now be securely fastened to the wires. Each bud may be expected