
Pruning Fruit Trees

on this favourite fruit may be useful. Pruning is perhaps scarcely the correct term to use in connection with plants of soft growth, such, for example, as the Tomato, Cucumber, and Melon, but it is sufficiently accurate for the purpose. It is usual to restrict Tomatoes to one stem, though occasionally the plants are allowed to form two or more stems. That does not, however, affect the chief point in pruning, which is to remove the side shoots that develop in the axils of the leaves; all these ought to be rubbed out while they are small. Further, it is advisable to pinch off the top of the plant when three or four bunches of fruit have formed; this is especially necessary in Tomato growing out of doors, because it hastens the development and ripening of the fruit, and in a comparatively sunless summer that is a point of importance.

Vine.—The Grape Vine is one of the simplest of all fruits to manage, so far as its pruning is concerned, but the average amateur rarely masters the process, though why he should be unable to do so is a matter for surprise. The grapes are produced by the fresh green shoots of the current year, usually at a point on the shoot between the second and third, or the third and fourth leaves. Let us suppose that the crop of grapes