

about the base of the trunks, taking care first to remove all rubbish.

DRAINAGE of orchard land may be done in open weather of the fall and winter, and is most necessary where the water is level and is not below the tree roots.

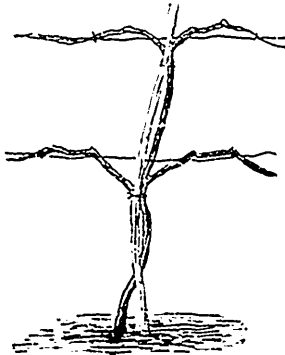


FIG. 2666. THE KNIFFEN SYSTEM OF GRAPE PRUNING.

THE KNIFFEN SYSTEM of grape pruning is the simplest and least laborious, and may be easily understood by a study of the accompanying diagrams. Only two wires are needed in making the trellis. We will describe fully if our readers desire.

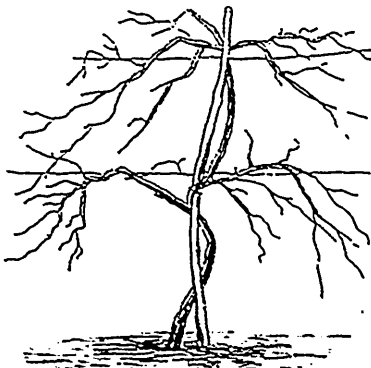


FIG. 2667. THE KNIFFEN SYSTEM.

DWARF PEAR TREES should be well cut back, especially the new wood, in order to keep up plenty of young growth, for on this the finest fruit is produced.

THE COUNTY FAIRS.

THAT our County Fairs are sadly in need of some radical improvements is quite evident to any one who is at all familiar with them. The old unpainted building, often misnamed "the Palace," is enough to give "sore eyes" to visitors, while the grounds are no improvement upon the barest and most aninviting country field, without shrub or shade tree for shade or ornament. This criticism applies to the Bruce County fair grounds at Walkerton, spoken of on page 402; to the Welland County fair grounds at Welland, all of which we have recently visited, and no doubt to many others.

The fakirs, who swarm to these fairs, are a disgrace, and should be routed out by the directors. At Welland the game tables were surrounded by green country youths freely putting up their money in the vain hope of winning a pile of dollars.

THE MODEL FAIRS.

Our Ontario Department of Agriculture has this year offered to aid those fairs which so consent, in several ways; as for example, the appointment of expert judges, the giving of demonstrations in domestic science, in apple packing, and by having experimental plots, right on the very fair grounds. Nor is this all, for demonstrations are also given in chicken feeding, and in the killing, plucking and packing of fowls for shipment to market, in the handling of bees, and in various other interesting and instructive diversions which are a means of education to the young farmers, and which should easily take the place of the fakirs. These offers, made by Mr. G. C. Creelman on behalf of the Department, have been adopted in six places, and their names are: Walkerton, Simcoe, Owen Sound, Brantford, Whitby and Renfrew.