

Grape Culture Again

Editor, THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST:—In last August number appeared an article entitled "The Summer Care of Vineyards" by G. H. Carpenter, Fruitland, Ont., upon which I would like to offer a few friendly thoughts. First, he says, "The great point in summer cultivation is to keep down everything but the grape vines." The deduction seems to be that the grape vines must be encouraged to spread sprawling over the ground in obedience to their own sweet will. Is this Mr. Carpenter's method? If it is, we would like to say that there is a better method and that Mr. Carpenter has scarcely touched grape vine culture.

Again, under the heading of "Summer Pruning," he says: "All sprouts should be kept down. Summer pruning is advocated by some growers but we have not followed the latter practice." From this we would gather that Mr. Carpenter is a long way off if he has not followed this practice. He is scarcely in a forward position to figure as a teacher in grape vine culture but judging from the samples of grapes we sometimes get from that region and knowing something of their method of culture, I suppose that Mr. Carpenter would be considered not far astray. But allow me to say that the laxity and carelessness of some grape-growers so called should be a crying shame on the industry.

As Mr. Carpenter knows, or should know, the highest and best results cannot be obtained in the vineyard without a thorough and most complete and most persistent system of summer pruning, no matter what the other conditions may be. What, for instance, is the value of grapes grown upon vines completely let alone and allowed to run over the entire ground as they may

incline? The better the environment, the worse the results. The grape vine is a most tractable and flexible thing of life and can be made to do and be almost anything that one may desire.

Grape vines should be intelligently pruned summer and winter. Practice the most advisable, careful and persistent system of training and pruning possible to be had at any price. See that your bunches are full and perfectly developed and your berries completely filled with the best and most nutritious and tasty juices of the highest value to be had, which is aided by good Canadian soil and climate. If you cannot do this, be willing to retire from the business and admit others who will minister willingly to the growing wants and needs of the intelligent people of this great and growing country, who know a good thing when they see it.—B. Gott, Strathroy, Ont.

MR. CARPENTER'S REPLY

Editor, THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST:—There are some expressions and statements in an article by me on grape culture that appeared in the August issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST that apparently are unintelligible to Mr. Gott of Strathroy. At least, judging from his criticisms of the article in question, that appear elsewhere in this issue, such would seem to be the case.

In the first place Mr. Gott has put upon my expression, "keep down everything but the grape vines," a construction that for a novice in grape culture would perhaps be pardonable. Coming from Mr. Gott, however, who I believe has been an enthusiastic horticulturist for years, the criticism is rather superfluous. He fears that if this were carried out to the letter that the vines would have a tendency to spread

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