

HARVESTING AND MARKETING THE GRAPE CROP.

Picking, packing and marketing should be done systematically; careless pickers or packers cannot be tolerated. In western New York a bushel tray or box is used almost exclusively for picking. This is too cumbersome and requires both hands in moving it. We use a shallow half bushel box, or basket, which is readily handled with one hand. A good picker will gather from 1200 to 1500 lbs. per day without dropping or crushing any, and a good packer will pack 100 to 125 baskets and get them full enough so they will open up smooth and level on top with no stems in sight, but not so full as to crush the fruit in putting on the cover. Pick grapes at least 24 hours before they are packed. If picked and packed at once, they settle so the basket is only two thirds full when it reaches the consumer.

Plan the harvest work so that full loads can be hauled to the depot each day. If the roads are good, as they should be, 400 or 500 baskets can be as readily drawn as half that number. Have the packing house cool and airy, with room and conveniences for the packers to work to the best advantage. If you ship to a commission house, don't listen to every drummer that comes along, but select two or three reliable firms and give them your fruit exclusively. The plan of forming all growers into a co-operative union has not proved a success here. A better plan is for several growers who can work harmoniously to load their own cars and ship or sell in carlots.—American Agriculturist.

WAGON SPRINGS FOR THE FRUIT WAGON.

In large commercial orchards it is well understood that the jolting of fruit when carried in the solid, springless box wagon causes injury, entailing great loss to the selling value of the fruit. The cut illustrates a simple method of arranging springs with a wagon body sufficiently sensitive for the carrying of the most delicate fruit. The springs may be made of vertical coiled wire, securely fastened to the cross piece which is attached to the under side of the body of the wagon and held in place by uprights at the ends. Fruit may easily be drawn for miles and but little bruising occurs thus supported and carried.

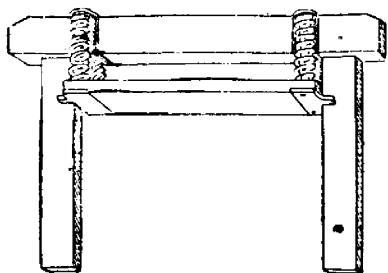


FIG. 829.—CARRYING FRUIT WITHOUT BRUISING.