

fulfilment of their wishes by employing the process of summer pinching. In the month of July pinch off the ends of the young shoots; this retards for the time the flow of sap, and hastens the formation of fruit buds.

ASPARAGUS.

To prepare a bed, dig the ground deep, incorporating large quantities of well decomposed manure. Plant the roots about three inches deep in rows 18 inches apart, and one foot apart in rows.

GRAPE VINES

Require a dry, mellow, well drained soil, deeply worked, and well enriched, with a warm sunny exposure. In planting give the roots plenty of room; spread them out not more than six inches under the surface and settle the soil firmly around them. Soapsuds, sink water and urine are good fertilizers. Nothing better than leaves and trimmings of vines buried around the roots.

PRUNING.—The novice, before attempting to prune a vine, should bear in mind the following facts and principles:

FIRST. That, as a general rule, the fruit-bearing canes of this year are grown from buds on last year's canes; in other words, the wood of this year contains the buds which produce the fruitful canes of next year.

SECOND. That the fruit buds differ from wood buds only because of better development.

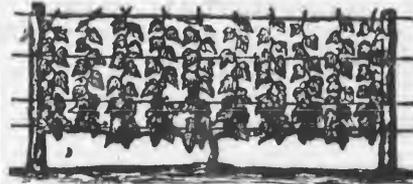
THIRD. That a cluster is a fruitful tendril, and that the ordinary capacity of a fruitful bud is to develop, on an average, two or three of these fruitful tendrils, or as commonly expressed, clusters of fruit.

FOURTH. That the tendency of the sap is to the extremity of the vine; that the straighter the cane the more rapid the growth, and the strongest growth from a pruned cane will generally be found nearest the end.

FIFTH. That it is an easy matter to overtax a young vine by endeavoring to make it produce and ripen more fruit than it is capable of doing. A young vine cannot yield the crop that an older, matured vine can without injury, any more than a young boy or girl can do the work of an adult; and it is as unreasonable to expect it in one case as in the other.

Vines, when set, should be cut back to within three or four buds of the root. In November, or early in the spring, before the sap starts, in open culture, they should be pruned liberally. In pruning rather tender vines, leave more wood than is needed, as some may be killed, and finish pruning in spring as soon as the leaves are nearly developed, when the life of the vine may be seen. In summer allow a good growth beyond the fruit, and about midsummer pinch off the ends of the branches to check them and cut feeble

laterals and branches on which there is no fruit; then there will be much foliage to absorb matter and prepare nutriment, and by checking the growth of wood, it will be appropriated to perfect the fruit. Do not pick off the foliage. The leaves, not the fruit should be exposed to the sun. We urge this point, as thousands mistake, and grapes are generally mismanaged. The two great errors are in neglecting to cut off useless wood in the fall or spring, and in depriving the plant of necessary foliage by close pruning in summer. To obviate over-bearing, reduce the vines by close pruning so as to prevent much fruit from setting. If too much sets, thin it in season, that the juices of the vines may not be wasted on what must be removed.



The above represents a grape vine pruned and grown in the manner that will give the best results.

BERRIES

Should have a strong soil and be kept under constant cultivation. Mulching is of special value. Raspberries and Blackberries should have the old wood cut out each year, and new canes pinched off when 3 feet high. Strawberries should be mulched late in the fall, uncover crowns early in the spring, remove mulch after fruiting, and spade in light dressing of manure. If set for fruit, keep the runners off.

CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES

Need heavy mulching and pruning, so that new wood will have room to grow.

ROSES

Should be planted in a deep, rich, well-drained soil, so that the top roots are not less than two inches below the surface and should be severely pruned every spring before the buds start, cutting back the last growth to three or four buds, except Climbing Roses, which may first be allowed to partly cover the space desired. Old decayed branches should never remain. Every autumn compost should be placed around the stem of the plants, and spaded into the ground the following spring.

After planting, the earth should be dug up around them so as to form a small channel all around the bush; pour into this some liquid manure mixing the earth that has to be replaced in with it. A small quantity of liquid manure given to the bushes in the manner described twice a month, will encourage growth and blossom