

PROPAGATING AND PRUNING OF CURRANTS.

the required height is attained, which need not exceed three feet. If the soil is rich and the bushes make strong growth they may be permitted to grow to a height of four feet. All laterals that are thrown out from each main branch should be cut back to two buds, at the winter pruning. It will be found when the laterals are treated in this way, that fruit spurs will be formed throughout the whole length of the main branch. The object in cutting to a bud pointing outward, is to encourage the bush to form an outward growth. Under this treatment, work among the bushes will be found much more convenient, and better fruit will be produced. There will be an abundance of leaves and laterals formed each year, to shade the fruit from the direct rays of the sun; thus the gathering of the fruit will be made much easier, and a better appearance given to the plants.

The accompanying cut Fig. 1275, shows the manner of pruning and the position of the fruit buds on the main branch.

Fig. 1274 represents a branch of the currant in its natural state, with but few fruit spurs. It will be readily seen that the plant has to produce a great amount of wood which should go to the production of fruit, if pruned as in Fig. 1275.

This system of cultivation has been used at this Station, and has proved very successful. It will be understood that the system referred to above does not apply to the treatment of the black currant. It is practiced only with the white and the red varieties. The fruit of the black currant is produced on the one year old wood, and consequently it must not be spur-pruned. Simply thin

out all wood that has already fruited and leave the young wood for the production of fruit the following season. This treatment encourages it to produce a strong growth of young wood each year.



FIG. 1275.—The above Plate shows the fruiting of the Currant when treated as in Fig. 1273.