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HORTICULTURE

PRUNE AND TRAIN GRAPE VINE

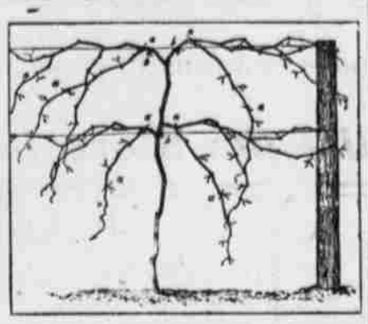
To Grow the Best Fruit the Vines Should Be Frequently Cut Back and Renewed.

The grape vine should be planted slightly deeper than it was in the nursery and cut back to a strong bud. Only one shoot should be allowed to grow.

The next spring it should be again cut back to a strong bud, the length of the cane varying with its size, says the Prairie Farmer. The terminal bud only should be allowed to develop and the cane should be tied to a stout stake as it grows.

The next spring it should be cut back at the height of four or five feet, according to the kind of trellis to be used, and three buds at the top should be allowed to develop into shoots.

The following spring the vines will be ready for a trellis. The favorite forms are known as vertical and horizontal. The vertical trellis consists of



Vine of Vertical Trellis, Showing Forearm Kniffin System. (a) Points for Pruning for Complete Renewal. (b) Method of Tying.

eight-foot posts set two and one-half feet in the ground at intervals of twenty to thirty feet. These generally carry two lines of No. 10 galvanized wire, respectively four and five and one-half feet from the ground. The end posts should be strong and well braced, and the wire should be so arranged that the slack can be taken up when necessary. The other posts need not be very large if twenty feet apart, but for thirty feet good-sized posts are desirable.

The horizontal trellis differs in having a 2x6-inch strip placed on edge horizontally at the top of the post, so as to form an arm two feet long, upon which three wires are carried.

The previous year's three shoots were grown on each vine. For the two-wire (vertical) trellis two of them should be placed on the lower wire and cut back to ten buds each. The other shoot should be cut off at the height of the upper wire, and a shoot from it should be trained in each direction. For the three-wire (horizontal) trellis, a shoot should be trained upon each of the wires, two in one direction and one in the other, and all should be cut back to eight buds.

The simplest and most satisfactory method of training the grape is by the Kniffin system. The fruiting arms are tied to the wires in the spring and the new shoots as they come out are allowed to hang down.

To grow the best fruit, whatever system is used, the vines should be frequently cut back and renewed. Some prefer to renew all the canes each year, starting all of them from the main trunk of the vine, while others renew but once in two years.

Whatever the method of pruning or training, one should endeavor to leave about 40 buds upon each vine, and these could be as near the main trunk as possible.

WARNING TO FRUIT GROWERS

Crown Gall Is Warty Outgrowth or Excrescence Upon the Apple, Peach, Pear and Other Trees.

Crown gall is a term applied to certain warty outgrowths or excrescences upon the apple, pear, peach, raspberry, etc., forming chiefly on the parts below ground. On the apple these growths are more apt to occur on grafted trees at the union of the root and the cion, but they may form at any place where the roots have been injured in transplanting, etc.

Experiments by the department of agriculture show that crown gall is caused by specific parasite. Every orchardist should carefully inspect all stock which he purchases for setting. All trees showing evidence of crown gall should be either returned to the shipper or burned, and future orders placed with nurserymen who can and will furnish trees free from disease. Under no condition should trees be planted which show growths of this kind upon the roots, for not only will it result in an unthrifty and unprofitable tree, but it will also endanger other plants.

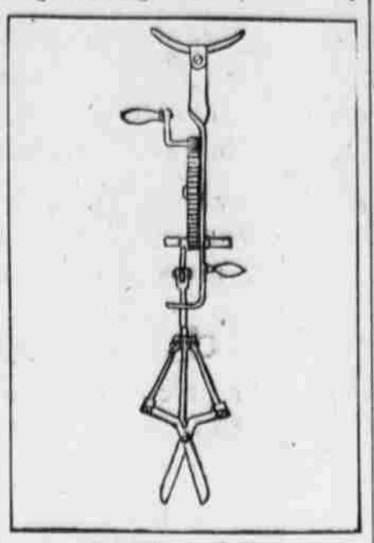
Inspection of Nursery Stock.

Representative Scott of Kansas is the author of a bill which provides for government inspection of nursery stock at point of entry to be designated by the secretary of agriculture. An appropriation of $100,000 is carried by the bill, which also authorizes the secretary to establish a quarantine against the importation or transportation in interstate commerce of diseased or infected nursery stock. The bill has been favorably acted upon by the house committee.

TO TRIM HEDGES RAPIDLY.

Novel Gearing Machine Which Operates Shears Rapidly and Does the Work of Five.

Among the numerous time and labor saving devices for gardeners' use, the geared hedge-trimmer, invented by



Does Work of Five.

a New York man, is one of the most interesting. With it a hedge that formerly required five hours to trim can be clipped in one hour, or one man can do the work of five. This apparatus consists of a long rod with a shoulder piece at one end and a pair of shears at the other. Along this rod is a drivewheel connecting with the rotary pinion, which operates the crank controlling shears. The device is held against the shoulder, by means of a handle in the middle. Then the drivewheel is turned, and by means of the multiple gearing it opens and closes the shears five times with each revolution, thus making the apparatus a saver of 80 per cent. in either time or labor. All the operator has to do is to keep turning the wheel and moving the shears along the hedgerow where it needs clipping.

FACTS ABOUT CENTURY PLANT

Blooms Once in Hundred Years, or Any Other Time, and Then Withers Away.

"The century plant, so named because of the popular idea that it blooms but once in 100 years, in one sense makes good its name, for it blooms only once, then dies," said H. F. Warren of Los Angeles, Cal. He continued:

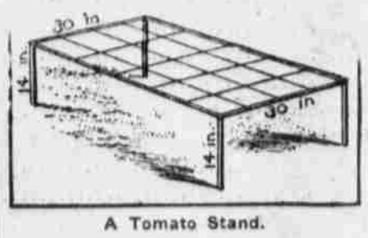
"In the genial climate of southern California it reaches maturity and blooms in 15 or 20 years, while in cooler climates the period may range from 40 to 50 years. There are many species of the agave family native to northern Mexico, where it is called the maguey. The plant furnishes 'pulque,' the national drink of Mexico.

"At the time of the blooming the plant throws up a single stalk of rapid growth to the height of 12 to 20 feet, from which the tassel-like flowers sprout forth. This great flower stalk draws all the sap and vigor from the body of the plant, which soon withers and dies. At the base of the thick green leaves are found little suckers, each with a root, which, when planted, at once begin to grow. The edge and end of the leaves are well armed with stiff, sharp spines, the prick of which is very painful. This is nature's way of protecting the plant from the ravages of desert rodents."

PLAN FOR TRAINING TOMATOES

Plants Grow Through the Frame and Fruit Is Kept from Ground and in Clusters.

A practical method of training tomatoes and keeping them from the ground and in clusters is herewith given. Set plants in straight row. When they are 12 to 14 inches high drive stakes each side about 8 feet apart. Nail on



A Tomato Stand.

slats top of stakes, stretch any old woven wire fencing over the top. The plants will go through them, so your fruit will be off the ground and hang in clusters. You can prune them handily. No strings to use, no sun-baked tomatoes.

Farmers Must Watch the Crop.

In order to determine what elements of plant food are deficient in a soil, it is necessary to carefully study the growing crop. Many farmers seem to be of the opinion that a chemical analysis of the soil will show the amount of plant food contained therein. This however, is a mistaken idea. The chemist can only determine approximately the amount of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash in soil, without specifically showing what proportion of these elements can be taken up by the growing plant. A large percentage of these elements is not available to plant food. Hence the necessity for them in an available form. We must turn, then, to the crop, and by watching it closely during its growth and by a careful examination when matured, see whether the soil is deficient in plant food and what elements are lacking.

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

Sunday School Lesson for June 6, 1909

Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—James 3:1-12. Memory verses 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles.—Prov. 21:23.

TIME—It is believed the epistle was written between A. D. 40 and 50.

PLACE.—Believed to be at Jerusalem.

Suggestion and Practical Thought.

Philosophers have striven to discover what faculty most clearly separates man from the brute; as, that man is the only animal that laughs, or the only animal that cooks, or the only animal that stands upright. Most thinkers, however, agree that the power of speech, with all that has grown out of it, is the clearest and most important distinction of mankind, and the surest indication of the superiority that God has conferred upon the human race. The passage we are to study is one of the finest in the Bible, and is the crown of all writings upon the subject.

Vs. 1, 2a. Why did James urge his readers not to be many masters (teachers, as in "schoolmasters")? I. Because the young church met that danger continually (see Acts 15:24; 1 Cor. 1:12; 14:26; Gal. 2:12). In the Jewish church the function of the rabbi was jealously guarded, but the liberty of prophesying (teaching) in Christianity was liable to become license. And "the more the idea prevailed that faith, without corresponding obedience, was all that is needful, the more men would eagerly press forward to teach."—Alford. This thought joins our present lesson with the last.

To illustrate perfect speech, to what does James compare the tongue? To a horse's bit or bridle, which, though small, turns and governs the whole body of the great animal; and, similarly, to a ship's helm or rudder, which, though so small in comparison with the great ship, and so weak in comparison with the fierce winds, yet turns the ship, in the face of the winds, whithersoever the governor (R. V. "steersman") listeth (R. V. "willeth"). Even so (like the bridle and the rudder) the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. "vaunts great words, which bring about great acts of mischief."—Alford.

What is the point of the comparison? The power of the tongue in the guidance and direction of life—our own lives and those of others. And "we are never to forget that the 'tongue' includes the 'pen.'"—Deems.

What is the next comparison used by James? "The tongue—that world of of iniquity—is a fire, sprung from the fires of Gehenna. It is a little fire, to the eye; but a little fire can kindle a great forest. So the tongue can ruin the whole body—nay, the whole life, in its revolving course from the cradle to the grave." The tongue is called a world of iniquity because "all kinds of evil that are in the world are exhibited there in miniature."—Barnes.

What is the point of this comparison? It pictures the destructive power of the tongue, as the first two comparisons pictured the tongue's guiding power. Little words, mere puffs of air, are insignificant as small sparks; but as the flame and smoke may spread everywhere, so the baneful effect of evil speech may penetrate all life.

What is James' next comparison of the tongue? To an untamed beast; all other living things have been mastered by mankind—the four divisions of animals, according to James' rough zoology, namely, quadrupeds, birds, reptiles and fishes. But the tongue is an exception. No man can tame it; only God, who made it, can keep it under control. "It is an unruly (restless) evil, full of deadly poison," and so to be classed with the animals most hated and feared, the serpents.

What is the point of this comparison? As the first emphasized the guiding power of the tongue and the second its destructive power, so this comparison emphasizes its unrestrained power.

If the tongue cannot be tamed, are we to blame for our ungoverned speech? Yes, as James himself says (v. 10), "These things ought not so to be." "If we be truly Christ's, though 'reviled' by the unruly tongues of others, we shall, like him, 'revile not again' (1 Peter 2:23). And as the whole body is the Lord's to be sanctified to him (1 Cor. 6:19, 20), so particularly must the tongue be kept from 'evil-speaking, lying and slandering,' and used rightly for the service of God. Thus may we truly offer 'the calves of our lips' (Hos. 14:2), more acceptable than the blood of victims slain on a thousand altars."—Ellicott.

Why does James drop comparisons when he comes to his last point? Because there are no comparisons in nature to man's inconsistency in speech—only contrasts. The constancy of nature was as well known in James' day as in ours. But the tongue is sadly different! "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing!"

What is the point of this contrast? Evil speech has been pictured as (1) influential, (2) destructive, (3) uncontrollable, and now finally as (4) unnatural. Men . . . are made after the similitude of God. "The nature of man is to adore God, and to love what is Godlike in man. Evil speech contradicts your nature and your destiny; to speak ill of others makes you a monster in God's world; get the habit of slander, and then there is not a stream which bubbles from the heart of nature, there is not a tree that silently brings forth its genial fruit in its appointed season, which does not rebuke.

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