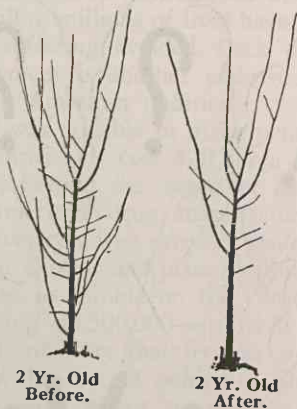
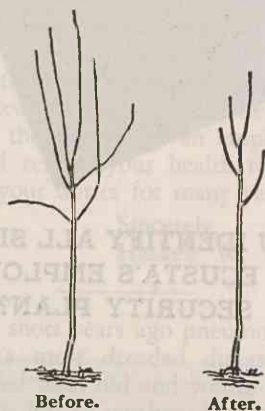
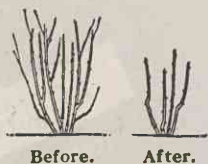


## PRUNING



By Bob Bolt

There is a natural urge at this time of year for all gardeners to get out the pruning shears, sharpen the saws, and go to work on fruit trees and vines. However, this kind of work is too often done carelessly and without proper knowledge of proper pruning or the purposes for which pruning is done.

Generally speaking, pruning is done when the trees or vines are dormant. In some cases with young trees, summer pruning is necessary for training the young tree to the proper shape and to provide a strong set of scaffold limbs.

Pruning is done for a number of reasons: to train the young tree to proper shape, to retard growth to restore a balance between the root and top growth, to increase the quantity or quality of fruit, to remove dead or diseased wood, to remove unnecessary wood, and others.

To achieve the necessary results, the grower must also have an understanding of the results of pruning. Heavy pruning of top growth is always followed by a vigorous increase in new growth. Heavy pruning disturbs the balance between the top and the root growth. Heavy pruning is done to rejuvenate old trees, to increase the vigor of weak trees and, as in the case of grapes, to bring about a vigorous growth of new fruiting wood. As might be expected, root pruning retards the growth of the top. Root pruning also increases the fruitfulness of the plant. Shrubs that are to be transplanted benefit by root pruning if done some time before removal is to take place. Pruned plants tend to return to natural shape so that annual pruning is necessary in most cases. Winter pruning tends to increase formation of new wood while summer pruning favors development of fruit buds. Summer pruning is not generally practiced because pruning cuts made in summer do not heal as well as those made in the winter while the tree is dormant, pruning in summer is difficult because of the foliage, and most growers

TOP: A rose plant of the Tea or Hybrid Tea type before and after being pruned.

CENTER: A young apple tree planted and properly trimmed.

BOTTOM: A two-year old apple tree before and after being pruned. Note that the lower limbs and the excess side branches have been taken off. The future scaffold limbs and short fruiting wood remains.