

have too much other work to do in summer.

A good "know-how" is important in pruning. Here are a few simple rules to follow. Make all cuts clean and smooth and avoid injury to the bark. In cutting back smaller branches, make the cuts near a bud so that a stub will not be left to die and start decay, but don't cut too close to the bud to cause it to die back. When a large branch is removed, the cut should be close to and parallel with the supporting limb. The scar should always be flush with the remaining limb. The cuts, if less than two inches in diameter seldom require a dressing. For large cuts especially on main trunks or branches, a wound dressing should be used. The preferred material for this is an asphalt-base tree paint. Creosote paints and paints that contain Bordeaux mixture should be avoided, since they are liable to injure the cambium, which is the tissue responsible for tree growth.

Newly planted trees should be trimmed at planting time. This pruning consists of starting the development of the head. Remove all branches that grow lower on the trunk than desired. The height of the lowest limbs left will not change. About three feet from the ground is the best height for apple and pear trees. The first year pruning of the peach tree consists of pruning all side branches off, and cutting back the main stem to about eighteen inches.

Second year pruning consists of removing or checking rampant and crowded growth, spacing the main branches so that the future mature tree will have strong scaffold branches that will distribute and hold up the load of fruit. The small slow growing branches in the center should not be removed since they will form the early fruiting wood and contribute to the general growth and development of the tree as a whole. This type

of training continues until bearing starts. Little pruning is necessary then until the tree becomes too thick, too large, or bears less or smaller fruit. Then the tree is pruned heavier to thin out and induce growth of new wood.

Apple and pear trees are pruned to a modified leader branch system. Peach, plum and cherry trees are pruned to an open vase shape.

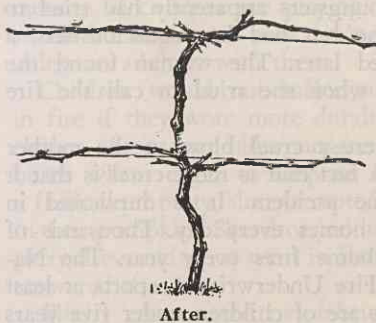
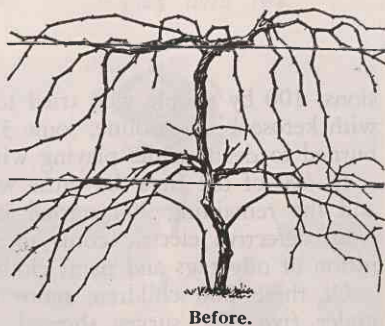
Grapes are pruned heavily each year since the fruit is borne on new wood. Young vines are usually tied to a stake the first year or two to start them up. The four cane Kniffen system is the most popular system of pruning and training grapes. The illustration shows best how the four canes are trained, two in each direction along the two vines.

Shrubs are pruned each a little different according to its own habit of growth. Those shrubs that bloom in early spring are usually pruned after bloom time. Others are pruned in winter or early spring before growth begins.

Shrub roses should have some of the top wood removed in the fall to prevent damage by the winter winds. In early spring before growth begins and after the winter cover has been removed, prune back to four or five of the best branches leaving each from eight to ten inches. Climbing roses require little pruning except to remove dead wood and troublesome canes.

Hedges should be pruned so that the bottom is wider than the top. This allows the sun to reach all the side branches and will keep the bottom dense.

Before making a single cut on a plant, know why pruning is necessary, have a definite knowledge of what the plant should look like when pruned, and have the proper tools and equipment to do the job.



ABOVE: The above illustration shows the Kniffen system of pruning and training grape vines. Grapes are borne on new wood. Last years canes are removed to four short canes leading

along each direction of the two wires. These remaining canes should be young wood with from 4 to 8 buds on each. These buds will provide the fruiting wood for next season's crop.