



The most common question now is: When must I prune my fruit trees, or when must I prune my shrubs? There isn't any hurry about it, so don't let it worry you.

In most cases it is best to delay pruning until the hard freezing weather is past. This is particularly true of rose bushes and figs. Pruning may be done at any time of the year but it is advisable to do it during the dormant season when the plants are not growing and when many fruit trees and shrubs have lost their leaves and you can see what you are doing.

The pruning of fruit trees is not just an indiscriminate cutting back of the branches. Prune out desirable growth and thin out sufficiently to develop a good crop of high quality fruit.

In order to prune a fruit tree intelligently, you should know how it bears its fruit. For example, the grape bears its fruit on new shoots coming from the previous season's wood. Therefore, prune away as much of the old non-productive wood as possible leav-

ing sufficient one year wood to produce a good crop.

The apple bears much of its fruit on short fruit spurs which are distributed along the main branches and upper trunk, and also on the terminals of the one year twigs. Do not remove these fruit spurs or you will destroy a lot of fruit bearing wood.

The peach bears its fruit directly on last season's growth and therefore may be pruned quite severely in order to promote the production of a good supply of young wood each year. Pears should be pruned very little because any stimulation of new growth may aid infection by fire blight.

In pruning grapevines, especially muscadines, many gardeners become alarmed because the vines "bleed" badly; that is, the sap flows from the cut stems. However, there is no evidence that this bleeding is harmful to the plant. Bleeding can be reduced by pruning grapevines early in the dormant season, preferably in December or January.

International Trade a Two-way Street



U. S. Senator Glenn Beall (R., Md.), visiting in Switzerland, discusses internal trade with P. Blank, left, director of the Swiss Federation of Watch Manufacturers, who explains that the Swiss would like to buy more U. S.-produced farm products, such as tobacco grown in Maryland. But their ability to do this, he points out, is being sharply curtailed by high tariffs and other restrictions aimed at Swiss watches, with the American farmer being the ultimate victim.

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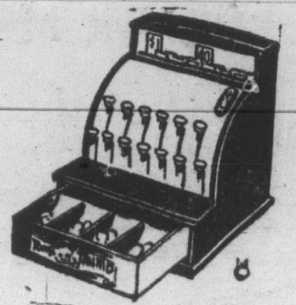
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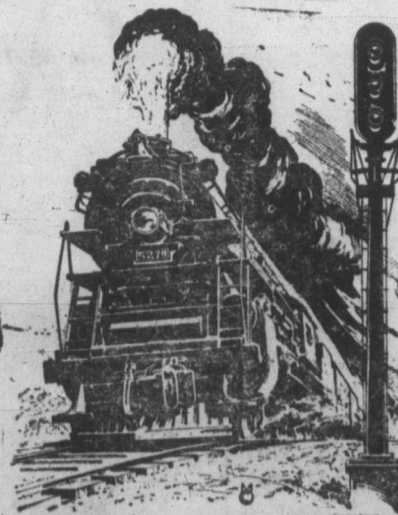
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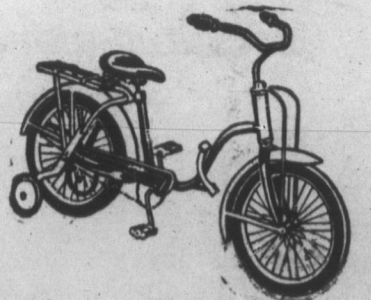
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