

PRUNING PERIOD NEARING ITS END; PREPAREDNESS MEANS BEST FRUIT

Safety Line for Work Will Soon Be Over as Sap Mounts Branches—Timely Hints on Cutting Trees and Grape Vines—Queries Answered

By JOHN BARTRAM

Pruning time is nearing its end as the sap begins its upward course to the furthest branches of the grapevines and fruit and shade trees.

All trees, vines and shrubs should be pruned in the late winter or early spring, except such shrubs as lilacs, spires, etc., that form their flowering wood immediately after blooming.

Pruning is more likely to be undertaken than overdone. There must, however, be no merciless slaughter of the wood unless for special remedial reasons, and this should be done by an expert.

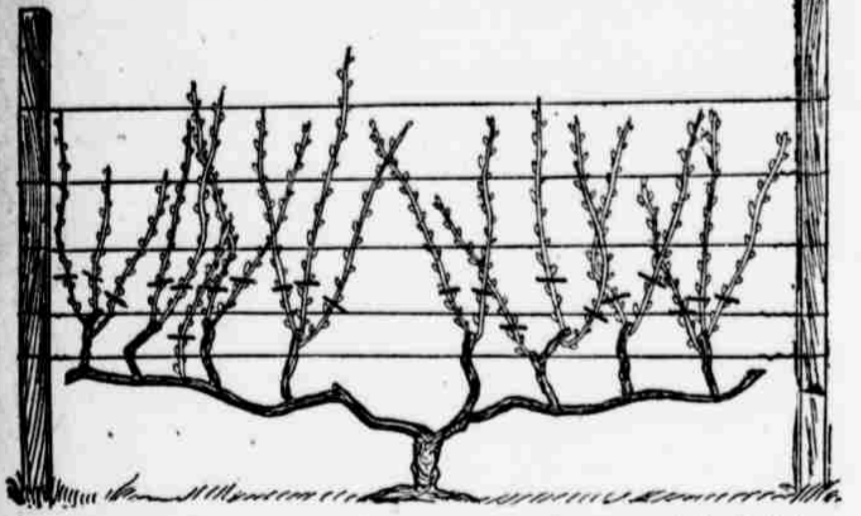
In general, the amateur is too hasty in pruning his trees and vines. It may almost be stated as a theorem that the grape vine should never be allowed to run to long canes and a lot of weak wood. That means that the bunches will not be full and the grapes will not have the largest size and best flavor. Proper

BRING your problems of gardening to the EVENING LEDGER for solution. In addition to practical articles, timely to the season, the editor will answer, either out of his own experience as a small-scale gardener or through consultation with authorities, questions of readers. Address John Bartram, EVENING LEDGER, Philadelphia.

Pruning in the case of peaches, plums and cherries.

PRUNING BERRIES In the case of currants, gooseberries and raspberries, cut out all the dead canes and the central canes where the plant is crowded, in order to let in plenty of light and air. This will pay in better berries.

The diagrams give the right idea in connection with grape vines.



Vines trained thus are convenient to prune and spray and the fruit is of superior size and quality.

Pruning of grapes will reduce the number of bunches, but enough will be formed for the vine to take care of to perfect maturity.

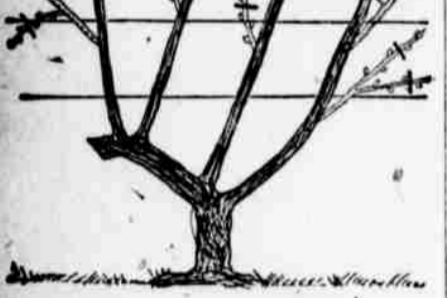
PRUNING FRUIT TREES

The first thing to do in pruning trees is to cut out all the dead wood. A pair of pruning shears with a good spring and a house saw will be all the tools necessary. Make clean cuts, leaving no stubs next to the main trunk or branches in wood that is cut off in this manner.

Under the spur system cut out all dead or winter-killed wood and any weak wood. The dead wood is the brittle, "crackly" sort and the new or bearing wood shows green when barked with the nail or cut with the shears.

Reduce this to three or four buds from the base of dark almost black wood, which is the permanent basis for the vine's bearing.

THE ARBOR SYSTEM The arbor system pruning is more taxing, but done properly the results should be a good crop of luscious grapes. Here there will be the almost black permanent wood, some dark brown, second or third year wood of leaders and the light brown or tan-colored wood of the new growth, which is to bear the fruit.



THE ARBOR SYSTEM

Grapes trained on the old-fashioned arbor are more difficult to handle, but usually give more bunches.

Letting water run into the pith and start rot. Cut out a good deal of the weak, thin wood on pears and apples, but be more dis-

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Advertisement for HUGHES AND MULLER Tailors, featuring a portrait of a man in a suit and text describing their services and location at 1527 Walnut St.

nection with grape vines. Many suburban places contain well-established grape vines on the old-fashioned arbor system. This means that the bearing wood is formed pretty well up at the top and there is a considerable growth of heavy nonbearing wood.

The spur system is much easier to handle. The vine seldom runs higher than a man's head and can be pruned quickly and unobtrusively. Grapes are borne on the new wood and under the spur system there is only this new wood and the permanent wood of the main trunk and arms to care for.

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Reduce this to three or four buds from the base of dark almost black wood, which is the permanent basis for the vine's bearing. This system of pruning is illustrated as the vine looks before operations, and, by blotting out the shoots above the cuts shown by short black lines, as it should look after pruning.

Try also to plan to bring the bearing wood down lower, which can be accomplished by careful pruning two or three years in succession. Train good, strong canes of the new growth, that grow low down on the cross timbers of the arbor, to make arms for the ensuing years.

For this year, however, do not cut out any of the live reddish brown second-year wood if it has canes of new wood. This new wood is tan outside and green inside, should be cut back to three or four buds for the fruiting branches.

The green wood is that showing the lateral

buds. The permanent or old wood is that shown nearly black. The two-year-old wood is that with the cross-bar effect.

In both systems of pruning tie with soft rags or coarse twine the new bearing wood left on the vine, distributing it as fan-like as possible to allow room for the leading air to circulate, so that there may be a good proportion of sunshine and ventilation.

Get busy this week with the pruning. Already the sap is mounting high under the influence of early spring sunshine. Very shortly cuts will be followed by detrimental "bleeding" of the sap.

GARDEN QUERIES ANSWERED

Grass Seed Varieties C. B. L.—You can obtain special and effective mixes of grass seeds for lawns, pastures, etc. Write for a list of the various mixes and their prices to the nearest seed dealer. Consult advertising columns for reliable dealers.

Geraniums ISADORE.—It is too early to put your geraniums out into the open. They are a somewhat tender plant which is blighted by frosts and retarded by cold.

Early Tomatoes British bark Neath, with auxiliary steampower, 4500 tons, bound Mauritius to Havre with sugar, torpedoed with-

REPUBLICANS WILL BACK MANN FOR SPEAKERSHIP

Illinoisan Expects to Lead Fight Against Democratic Rule of Next House

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Democrats and Republicans returning to the capital in increasing numbers today, began the final line-up of their forces for the fight to control organization of the House when Congress convenes in extraordinary session next Monday.

But Representative Mann was confident of his party's support today. He said: "I expect to be nominated for the speakership. The Republicans will caucus Saturday, when their final plans will be agreed upon. The steering committee will meet tomorrow night. It is expected that a plan will be adopted whereby, if a Speaker has not been chosen after a reasonable amount of balloting the Republicans will propose a continuance of the present organization of the House provisionally."

Both Republican and Democratic leaders are agreed upon a plan by which passage of the four big appropriation bills which failed in the last Congress will be retrograded through the House.

Preparing to Attack Zapatistas MEXICO CITY, March 29.—Preparations for an offensive against the rebel troops in Morelos State is now in progress. General Pablo Gonzalez will leave April 2 for Vera Cruz to become military commander there and direct the attack on the Zapatistas, who will be under the personal command of General Benjamin Hill.

Cotton in Store Damaged by Fire NEW YORK, March 29.—Between 500 and 600 bales of cotton were damaged by fire, water and smoke early this morning in a fire in dock store No. 29 of the American Dock Company, at Tompkinsville, N. Y.

Both Republican and Democratic leaders are agreed upon a plan by which passage of the four big appropriation bills which failed in the last Congress will be retrograded through the House.

Rain—

beating in through a forgotten window, may do serious damage to the contents of your store or office. When you have Holmes protection, all windows and doors must be properly closed every night.



May we tell you why?

HOLMES ELECTRIC-PROTECTIVE-COMPANY 812-CHESTNUT-ST. tel.-Walnut-611.

GERMAN PEACE MOVE IS SEEN IN BERLIN PARLEY

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would be granted to this end—after the sentiment for greater participation by the German people in the management of Germany. He then declared important reforms

would be granted to this end—after the sentiment for greater participation by the German people in the management of Germany. He then declared important reforms ought to be made at once.

U. S. HEARS BRITISH SEA CAPTAIN IS TAKEN AS HOSTAGE BY U-BOAT

WASHINGTON, March 29.—A mysterious message from Consul Frost at Queenstown today reported both that the captain of the British bark Neath had been taken hostage by a German submarine and that he had been landed the following day at Queenstown. Two Americans were aboard the Neath when she was torpedoed, but no lives were lost.

out warning 8:45 a. m. 27th, twenty-eight miles southeast of Fastnet. Sank in seven minutes. No losses or injuries. Captain taken hostage by submarine. Neath carried no gun or wireless; no attempt to escape or resist. Weather fair. Boats picked up by Admiralty vessel three miles off Baltimore, Eng., 6:30 P.M. All saved. Captain landed Queenstown 2 today (March 29). Two Americans, Clarence Bloom, boatswain, 229 Stewart street, San Francisco, and Peter Webster, negro seaman, Pensacola, Fla.

WAR TRAINING CAMPS FOR SUMMER ANNOUNCED BY WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The War Department today announced the summer schedule of civilian training camps to be held on the Plattsburg plan. The schedule follows: Plattsburg—first camp, June 2-July 1; second camp, July 2-August 5; third camp, August 11-September 9; fourth camp, September 15-October 14.

Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., June 30-July 29 and August 4-September 2; Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., July 7-August 5; Fort DuMoines, Ia., June 30-July 29 and August 4-September 2.

PRESIDENT CONFERS ON LAND DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Land defense problems and propositions held the President's chief attention today, in his consideration of preparation of the nation for the state of war existing, formal announcement of which is expected by Tuesday.

own are advanced I will continue to push my bill forward."

Six Representatives sent out a call for a "get-together" dinner to Congressmen

Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the military committee of the upper body, called at the White House this afternoon to tell the President that he should embody in his coming message a flat recommendation for universal military training.

Chamberlain explained the conference was held "partly at the instance of the President" and partly at his own request. Just before Chamberlain called, Secretary of War Baker went to the White House to lay before the President details of all his department had done in land defense work.

"We discussed the general military situation," Chamberlain said. "Of course, I urged that the President signify his approval of the form of universal service. If the President would get behind universal military service it could be passed, I believe. However, he has not manifested any change in his opinion."

"Until some other bills better than my

who favor universal military service. They plan to start at that time plans for action at this session on universal military service legislation. The six Representatives are McArthur, Oregon; Greene, Vermont; Platt, New York; Gray, New Jersey; Gardner, Massachusetts, and McCormick, of Illinois.

CALLS CAMDEN COUNTY MAYORS TO CONFERENCE

Prosecutor Kraft Wants to Map Out Plans for Home Defense

William J. Kraft, Prosecutor of Camden County, today issued a call for the Mayors and other town officials of the towns in Camden County to meet at the courthouse tomorrow afternoon and map out plans for home defense.

Among those who will attend are Director John Prentice, of the County Board of Freeholders; Sheriff Joshua P. Haines and the Mayors of Gloucester City, Haddonfield, Haddon Heights, Audubon, Merchantville and Magnolia.

Mr. Kraft says that Camden County is regarded by military men as being the first county in the State with regard to strategic importance. Through Camden County comes much farm produce for the provisioning of Philadelphia and League Island.

RAIDER MAY BE DROWNED

Body Floating in Oswego Canal May Be Escaped German

Philadelphia Navy Yard officials were this afternoon communicated with by authorities at Syracuse, N. Y., in an endeavor to ascertain whether the body of an unidentified man found floating in the Oswego Canal there this morning was that of an escaped German sailor from an interned vessel. The clue to this identity is a tattoo on the right arm of the man. The design is that of an anchor, surrounded by a wreath, while in the center the emblem in German script is the word "wezel." Patrolman discovered the body. The man displayed a large wallet in a Syracuse restaurant. He is believed to have been about forty-five years of age. Weighed about 150 pounds; was five feet eight inches tall; had dark brown hair and sandy mustache.

Indicted as Woman's Slayer

NEW YORK, March 29.—An indictment charging "Benny" Sternberg, young fur salesman, with murder in connection with the death of Mrs. Elsie Lee Hillar was returned by the Grand Jury this afternoon. Mrs. Hillar was found strangled to death in the Hotel Martiniere on March 15. Sternberg will be arraigned tomorrow.

Large advertisement for Sonora Phonograph Corporation, featuring the text 'THE INSTRUMENT OF QUALITY' and 'CLEAR AS A BELL', along with a list of models and prices.

Advertisement for Commercial Stationery, featuring 'Carbon Copy of Your Correspondence' and 'Mann's SHEN-KING' paper.

Large advertisement for Belgian Children's Relief Work, featuring the text 'BELGIAN CHILDREN'S RELIEF WORK WILL POSITIVELY CONTINUE' and 'Over a Million Belgian Children Are Dependent On Charity For Food'.

Large advertisement for W.L. Douglas shoes, featuring a portrait of a man in a suit and text describing the quality and price of the shoes.