

Agricultural Department

Grape Culture

The following brief, practical, and condensed rules for the management of grapes were given by Dr. Whiting at the Farmer's institute, recently held at Saginaw, Michigan. The soil best suited for the grape is decomposing shale, but any good clay soil thoroughly drained will do. The ground should be carefully prepared and only well-rotted manure used. Decomposing turf is one of the best fertilizers when it can be obtained, no other will be required. The vines selected for planting should be good one year old layers, or cuttings. They may look small, but will make the best vines and bear well. Good culture is necessary to the vine as to corn or cabbage. Mulching and watering the first year should not be neglected if drought is excessive. One good soaking water can be saved with a hoe than can be put on with a sprinkler. In planting cut the vine back to two buds, whatever its strength or age. Summer burning consists in pinching off a twiggling shoot in order to confine the sap to the main branches. The first summer allow the one main shoot to grow. In the fall, after the first frost, cut all the summer growth back to within two buds of the ground. The second year confine the sap to two branches, and in the fall cut back to three buds each. The third year, if your vine has made vigorous growth, cut all the summer growth back to within two buds of the ground. The second year confine the sap to two branches, and in the fall cut back to three buds each. The third year, if your vine has made vigorous growth, cut all the summer growth back to within two buds of the ground.

Educational Department

Committee

Education does not so much create faculty as it trains and invigorates it. What the grammar school should do is to train the mind to the use of its own powers. A little more than this may be true when we apply it to the mind, for the very process of thinking and study has a tendency to work out the dross, refining it as the hammer does the iron on the anvil. It is very important that the mind gains strength and faculty of action through habit of exercise, but it is more important to learn the law of its own action, to find out its own natural channel, and like the river, when it broader, deeper and straighter, as it has occasion. The untrained mind is like the waters of a river turned upon the prairie, having no channel for its use, stagnation is sure to follow. After wandering and spreading over so much surface, it becomes so strong when first put into service, but he does not know how to use his strength until he has received a special training. By habit of labor his muscles become more vigorous and harmonious in action so that without any real increase of strength he can move a load with ease, which at first would seem impossible for him to do. It has been said, we can not stretch out an arm of a foot, or walk, or run, or leap, without freshening the life-currents of the system sending new flashes of electric warmth along the nerves and muscles; and scattering a cloud of those blue and black devils that buzz around our sedentary pupils, excursions and amusements in numbers and amid household cares. This is true, but it is equally true, that the mind ought to be trained in order to know when and how to act, to render the most good to itself and others.

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