GRAPE GROWING FOR FARMERS.

By C. A. Hatch, Ithaca.

The fruit of the vine is something that few of the human family do not admire. The vine has been, from the time of earliest history, the emblem of home comfort, and the vine and fig tree synonymous with rural independence and enjoyment. Yet we presume not one farmer in twenty of this country of ours has grapes enough on his farm for the use of his own family. And why is it? Is there any lack of soil, or conditions necessary to the success of the vine? It cannot be for lack of the right kind of soil, for grapes will flourish on almost any kind of land, from the poorest clay or sand to richest mould. It cannot be for lack of the right slope of the land, for our many hills and narrow valleys give any desired slope, to be found on almost every farm. Varieties, we have in plenty, and those who have them to sell are anxious to speak well of their virtues. Can it be that our farmers are more willing to "lend ear" to something that has dollars more visible. Cannot they get their ideas off of hogs, cows and sheep long enough to give a little attention to something that will promote comfort, health and prosperity without being sold for the cash? Something that will lighten the cares of the wife, and make home attractive to the younger members of the family, make them healthier, happier and brighter, to say nothing about the satisfaction of one's own self by disposing of a few clusters when coming in for nooning, weary and footsore?

Whether it be for any of the foregoing reasons that farmers do not plant vines, or whether it comes from negligence or an idea that too much skill in pruning and care is required, we shall take the charitable side of the question and say the last reason is the one, and try to make this a practical article. And right here let me say it is a false notion that any great amount of special skill is needed—not so much as to grow tobacco, hops or many other things; but grape growing does require certain things to be done at the right time;
for example, the vine must be pruned in the fall, and must be covered in the winter, and must be tied up to stake or trellis in the spring. Some no doubt would ignore all three of these points and say you need not protect in winter, you can prune in the spring, and let them grow on the fence for stake and trellis. A man might grow grapes by not covering them winters; in fact the last season I saw a vine that was heavily loaded that had neither been pruned nor protected nor even tied to a trellis, but this was an exception, not the rule.

The first thing is to get your vines of course. Now when you are at this point one word as to the varieties. Everyone knows the Concord, and it has been called "the grape for the million" so long and so often that it has become monotonous; and we think that if any horticultural society were to offer $50 reward for an essay on grapes in which the Concord was not called the grape for the million it would be safe; the money would be untouched; the essayist could not be found.

The Worden is a seedling of the Concord and has all of its desirable qualities and some of its own; we will say of it a little more than "It is the grape for the million"—it is the grape for the billion, if we are allowed that form of the superlative. The Janesville for earliness, hardiness and productiveness is hard to beat, and these two varieties—Worden and Janesville, are enough for a farmer’s vineyard. If you want to try something more delicate in habit, also finer in quality, there are the Delaware and a long list of Rogers’ hybrids, but I would say let the specialists grow them; it takes too much fussing for an ordinary farmer, with so much other work always calling for his time and attention. For my own part I never could appreciate them. Perhaps my taste is not cultivated, perhaps I am open to the charge of not being refined in taste, but I always prefer Worden or Concord to any other, for my own eating.

You will likely get two-year-old vines, and now is the time to train them in the way they should go. This brings us to the most important part, pruning; for you must prune your vine so as to start right, for that is half the battle. One vine or
cane to each root is all you want to allow to grow the first season, and this should be cut back in the fall, after the leaves fall, to two buds, from which your next year’s vine is to grow.

Fig. 1. Grape vine second year after planting.

The next fall cut the two canes back to four feet in length, and if you want to train in the simplest way possible, cut one off the Janesville (Concord or Worden will need the two), and tie them up to a stake; no stakes will be necessary the first year. Your vine is now in regular shape, and each year’s work will only be a repetition of the former year’s. You now have on the Janesville one vine four feet long, and on the other kinds two of the same length; these will in the fall each have branches or laterals, as they are called, on which the fruit, if any, will be borne. These laterals must be cut back to two buds each, every fall before burying for winter. And right here let me call your attention to a fact not generally recognized, that the vine on which fruit is grown is a bud in the spring, the vine as well as the fruit growing the same season. One hundred and fifty buds are considered the greatest number allowable on a vine, so do not think it destruction if you do cut away nineteen-twentieths of the vine in pruning.
And now you have all that is necessary to raise grapes. As a covering I have used dirt only, put on four or five inches deep, and have had good success.

![Diagram](image)

Spring.  
Fall.

Fig. 2. Grape vine, third and succeeding years after planting.

Some may say summer pruning is necessary, or that an expensive trellis is necessary. I have not found it so, and think summer pruning and trellises of any kind except what is really needed to support the vines, are worse than useless.

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THE GROWING OF SEEDLING APPLES.

By Peter M. Gideon, Excelsior, Minn.

Perhaps a few items on the propagation of new varieties of seedling apples would be of interest to many not familiar with the facts or principles governing the production of new varieties from seed; therefore, please indulge me in a short essay on the subject, though in doing it I repeat many items often told, yet new and of great interest to the great mass who desire a better collection of fruit, whether they intend to embark in the business or not.