

very slowly and unevenly, and, unless one is prepared to exercise a considerable amount of patience, there is no use attempting their cultivation. Auriculas, Primulas, Gentians, Cannas, and many others are usually very slow to appear. I have known Auriculas take twelve months to germinate, and yet eventually do well.—"Scottish Gardener."

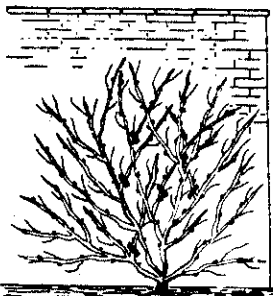
ROSE PRUNING.

At the last meeting of the National Rose Society of Victoria, Mr. James Allen, of Surrey Hills, gave a practical demonstration on rose pruning. He recommended amateurs to follow the advice given by the Rev. Foster Meliari, who stated that the rose bush was not a tree, but rather a plant. The rose bush did not grow like a tree, properly speaking, as it expanded, including roots, in all directions. The first thing to be considered in pruning was what branches were to be practically untouched. Different varieties required methods of pruning. A variety that was very vigorous for producing wood should not be pruned to the extent of the weaker growing varieties, which should be cut well back. For instance, if Frau Karl Druschki were cut back, no blooms would be obtained during the season, as it would devote its energy to produce wood for blooms for the following season. Good pruning renewed the life of the plant. After pruning, liquid manure and fresh soil should be applied. Unless the plant was looked after subsequently to pruning, it would not do well. He had not discovered the best way to grow Mildred Grant. To grow it successfully, he believed that plenty of wood should be left on it. As a rule, champion blooms were secured from shoots from the base of the plant. These shoots later on required to be pruned, with the result that later on another shoot will appear lower down the stem. Cleopatra did well in yellow clay soil, and should be pruned down to the dead wood. Be always careful to prune to an eye, a good healthy red eye, if possible. Some of the specimens submitted to Mr. Allan to prune had been neglected in the matter of pruning. Mr. Allan produced one specimen, which he stated was an awkward one to bring back into shape, explaining the fact that there was no plant in his garden requiring pruning which puzzled him half so much. (Laughter.) He did not think that D. R. Williamson was going to be the success it was first anticipated.

Mr. S. Brundrett, nurseryman (Ascot Vale), also gave a lecture and demonstration on pruning. He agreed that plants did well in yellow clay soils up to ten and fifteen years, but in sandy soils it would attain its best at six or seven years. The union should be planted just above the soil. If planted just below the soil, it tended to produce roots. Climbing roses produce all their strong woods from the base. For trellis work, climbers should not be pruned the first two or three years before being bent into shape, and all base shoots removed. He preferred to have climbers fan-shaped. The strongest shoots started from the bend. He thought that all the Irish single roses would come into popular favour, and a class provided for them at shows.

PRUNING AND NAILING HARDY CLIMBERS.

In many instances the greater portion of this work will be done already; but there are many persons who do put off different kinds of work as long as possible; and where the pruning and nailing



How to Prune Deciduous Climbers.

of hardy climbers has still to be attended to, the work should be carried out without delay, because there will be a vast amount of other work to attend to later on.

Deciduous climbers are very deceptive in appearance during the winter months. Their leafless branches do not seem to be too much crowded, but when they are clothed with beautiful leaves the latter often suffer through overcrowding. It is easier to arrange and manipulate the branches at the present time than later, when the young shoots are growing freely.

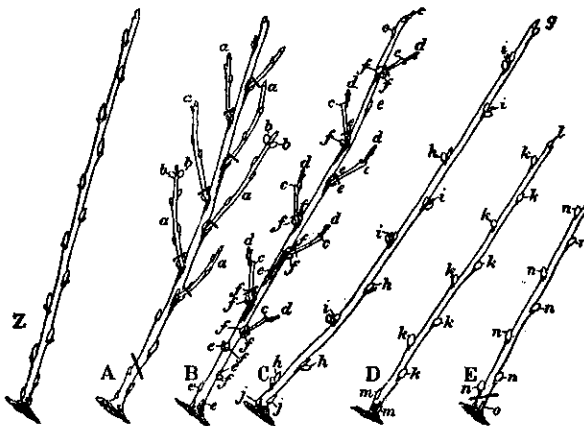
The illustration shows how the pruning or thinning out should be done. First remove any extra strong, sappy shoots, unless such are required for filling up vacant spaces, then cut other shoots which cross main branches, as shown by the dark lines in the sketch. Keep the centre of the tree open and neatly fasten all the remaining branches to the wall or trellis, without using too many ties, nails or shreds.

Young climbers newly planted, should be so fastened to the wall that the shoots will grow and fill the vacant space from the bottom upwards.

PRUNING FRUIT TREES.

In the illustration herewith, young orchardists can readily perceive characteristic growths.

The shoot Z is the most desirable class



Characteristic Growths of the Peach and Nectarine.

References:—Z, young shoot, with wood buds only. A, over-luxuriant shoots with laterals (a) unpinched; (b) blossom buds—all the others wood buds, bars, points of cutting off the laterals at the winter pruning. B, vigorous shoot, with the laterals pinched at the first joint (c); d, sub-laterals; e, wood bud; f, blossom buds; bars, points of pruning the laterals in winter. C, bearing shoot; g, terminal wood bud; h, double buds; i, triple buds; j, basal wood buds. D, bearing shoot with single blossom buds (k); l, terminal wood bud; m, basal wood buds. E, barren shoot (because containing no growth buds above the bar); n, blossom buds; o, wood bud; bar, point of winter pruning.

of wood, medium sized, not so weak as to remain short, nor so vigorous as to push laterals; but short-jointed, brown and hard. It can be left its full length as an extension, or be cut back to any bud desired.

The over-luxuriant shoot (A) is practically useless when unripe, and the only sound part of it is that represented by the three buds below the bar, to which it is best shortened, and then, if root action is also checked, better growths will follow.

B is a similar shoot to A, transformed into well matured wood and fruitfulness by the careful management of the laterals. By pinching these at the first joint, and to one afterwards, the buds at the base become round and plump—blossom buds from base to extremity, yet with ample wood buds for supplying bearing shoots. It is an excellent extension, often 4 feet long, and when thoroughly ripened to its extremity, bears the finest fruit. In C is represented a fair example of a long-pruning shoot, with blossom and wood buds form near the base to the extremity. It is the best type of a bearing shoot, as it can be laid in its full length, or cut back to any desired extent. It can hardly be cut in wrongly either for fruit or wood, as there is a wood bud with every blossom bud.

D is a bearing shoot common on the weaker parts of a tree. It has only single blossom buds (k), a wood bud at the extremity (l), and wood buds at the base (m). A free thinning of such growths

will generally induce bearing shoots with double and triple buds, and these are much superior to the weaklings. Such shoots, as in E, should be cut bodily away at the bar, to encourage the wood bud (o), to push a bearing shoot.

The object of pruning is not to increase but to modify vigour; balance the several parts, accelerate and regulate the production of fruit, and maintain the health and profitability of the tree. There are different methods, and it is not necessary to decry any, for experience proves that "which is best administered is best."—"Journal of Horticulture."

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(Hall's Honeysuckle.)

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