

GRAPE - CULTURE.

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WORK IN THE COOL VINE-HOUSE FOR MARCH.

ONLY the very late grapes will now be left in the houses. As these are disposed of keep the houses as open as possible, to enable the wood to thoroughly mature. So long as the weather keeps warm there is danger of red spider and thrip attacking the green shoots and leaves.

Where it is intended to plant vines in the coming winter the borders of the new vineery should be prepared by trenching, so that the soil may be well aerated and weathered before planting-time.

The vine-borders of old vine-houses are much benefited by a thorough renovation. This work, however, should not be started till May. The borders can then be trenched over, carefully lifting, pruning where necessary, and relaying the roots; adding fresh soil—well-rotted manure and a dressing of bonedust, about 8 lb. to 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ square yards. This renovation of old borders when once started should be promptly carried through, and only done in dry weather. On the other hand, should the soil be very dry the roots may require to be settled in their place by a liberal watering. No check to the vines need be feared where the work is properly and promptly carried out, but a great benefit will be manifest the next fruiting season.

WORK IN THE VINEYARD.

Beyond keeping the vineyard clean no particular work will be required during this month. In the case of outdoor Black Hamburgh vines, should the weather be showery after they begin to colour and the foliage be heavy, a few of the lower leaves of the fruit-bearing shoots may be removed, not for the purpose of permitting the sun to get at them, but to allow the wind to dry up the moisture quickly. These lower leaves have performed their functions for the season, and no harm can come from their being taken away. This applies to vines being grown on the double Guyot method on espalier fences.

The chief trouble at this time is the birds. This applies to the outdoor-grown table-grapes, Black Hamburgh and others. Where the area is not large and the market for them good, it is best to cover them in with the small-meshed wire netting. This is done by stretching an ordinary fencing-wire along the surface of the ground 15 in. from the espalier fence on each side, and fastening it firmly to pegs put in