

desirable to start the vines until a steady rise in outside temperature may be expected. If vines are started too early a spell of cold weather may cause a check in growth, which is a result to be avoided.

When the time arrives for the vines to start growth the bottom ventilators should be kept closed. Syringing the rods, and so creating a moist atmosphere, is considered to assist the vines in breaking. When all the buds have broken and made a few inches of growth the rods should be suspended in their proper places. A good time to get the rods into their proper positions is when the shoots average from 4 in. to 6 in. in length. The tying-up of the vines requires to be done with care, otherwise laterals may be broken off. The risk is greater where the shoots have made much growth. The laterals rarely break quite evenly; some are more advanced than others.

As recommended earlier, each lateral should be pruned back in winter to the lowest prominent eye. In all but rare instances there are other dormant buds close to the one pruned to, which, though less prominent, will in some cases break quite as strongly as the one selected. The two strongest and well placed laterals on each spur should be kept until they have advanced in growth far enough to allow the selection of the one that promises to produce the best bunch of fruit. All but these two should be rubbed off as soon as the rods are suspended in their places, or as soon as they show after that time. When the final selection has been made the spare laterals should be broken off from their base.

The growth of the laterals at this time is very rapid, and, as it is highly important to prevent waste of growth, constant attention is necessary. Each lateral should be "stopped" at a point two leaves beyond the bunch of grapes nearest to the old rod. It may be that the second is the better bunch, and when this occurs it should be retained instead of the first. In such cases the lateral should be "stopped" at a point one leaf beyond the second bunch. In the case of close planting it may be necessary to stop at one leaf beyond the first bunch, so as to leave room for the extension of the lateral from its next break. In this case, if the second bunch is retained, stopping must be close to the bunch. This can safely be done to a limited extent, and, in fact, often is. There is no need for haste in selecting the bunches to retain; they do not become a drain on the vitality of the vine until the berries begin to swell. It is best to wait till the berries are set, as it sometimes happens that some bunches do not set well. Surplus bunches should, however, be removed before much swelling of berries takes place.

Where there is no fruit on any of the laterals on a spur, a well-placed lateral should be pinched back to one or two leaves and all new growth pinched back to one leaf. This lateral may then be pruned back in the winter to the base bud.

Stopping the laterals should be done by pinching off the tips with the thumb-nail. It is harmful to allow them to extend so that several joints have to be removed. The removal of a considerable amount of leafage, as would result from this practice, causes a severe check to the roots, and, what is far more important, the vitality expended in producing the extended lateral growth will have been lost.