

**CROPS BY THE ROADSIDE.**

Country roads, with a width of four rods, take from the cultivated area one acre for every seventy-nine cultivated. This is the case where the road runs on the section lines. Where the farms are smaller much more land is wasted, perhaps twice as much. The use or rather misuse of the highways usually is to grow a crop of rank weeds. In some districts with an energetic overseer these weeds are cut once a year, too often they flaunt their ugliness and scatter their pernicious seed through the entire year. As an object lesson in different parts of the west, the land owners of a neighborhood have united to improve the landscape of the highways. This they have done at small expense by confining the roadbed to the center of the right of way, on each side they have plowed and cultivated the old ruts and trails and seeded them to the tame grasses.

Recently we were riding across the country where the land was rolling, when we passed through a road that was not more than ten feet wide, that is the dirt road. On either side of the road was a fine strip of alfalfa that the owner of the land had cut three times the present year. There was not a weed in sight. There were no deep gullies on the hills. The strong growing roots of the alfalfa held the soil and hard rains were either absorbed in the soil or ran off without harm. It may not be generally known that the party who owns or leases the land joining highways has a legal right to use for his benefit so much of this land as the public does not need to go from place to place. And that a deed or dedication to the public is in the nature of an easement to enable them to pass over, rather than a vested title. This being the case, a land owner need not fear to improve and use that portion of the highway adjacent to his land and not needed by the public for a roadbed, as he can enjoy these improvements. By caring for and reclaiming the waste land along the highways a large area could be added to our cultivated acres and the crops that were gathered from it would be a source of profit.

This system of parking the highways would make all of our rural districts better places to live in and the dwellers need not come to cities to find the beauties of well kept drives and the charm of trees. Trees set along the roadway should not be the large growing kinds like soft maple and elm, for in time they would entirely shade the road, keeping the roadbed soft and the wheeling heavy. Low-growing trees that never grow large like the whitethorn or birch, would make the landscape beautiful.

Perhaps the best trees for wayside planting are the Platte and silver cedars. In winter when all else is white with snow the green rows of these cedars would be a restful picture on the landscape. A system of highway parks perfected in any locality would add \$10 to the selling value of every acre. The people would get many times its cost in the pleasure of their surroundings.—Twentieth Century Farmer.

**CARE OF THE VINEYARD.**

At this season of the year we are receiving inquiries regarding proper methods of trimming the vineyard, and what protection, if any, is needed every winter.

Commencing with the first of the year when planted, grape vines should be cut back to three or four buds and allow two or three canes to grow, also allow these two or three canes to branch at will. The object of the first season is to obtain such vigorous growth as will establish a good root system. The larger the amount of foliage the stronger the root growth, each corresponding to the other.

Late in October or early November, the first year's growth in the vineyard should again be cut back to about four of the most vigorous buds. Our habit is to throw the growth of the second year into three canes with such branches as these canes may develop. Our plan is to ultimately trim to two wires, the lower wire 24-30 inches from the ground, the upper 3½ to 4 feet. On soil that has been heavily fertilized, and is naturally very rich, it might be well to have a third wire 5-6 feet from the ground with the thought to give the foliage of the rampant growing vine more sun and air.

At the end of the second season in the vineyard, if cultivation has been effective, canes from 4-8 feet in length or longer, have been produced. Those who give special care quite often get this growth the first season after planting.

Where the vine is allowed to grow at will, so many branches are thrown out that the roots are weak and the bunches small. Weak shoots crowd each other and there is not room or sunlight for all. Pruning is a simple operation if the fundamental principle on which it rests is kept in mind. The fruit is borne near the base of the growing shoots of the season and the bearing shoot of next season are always from the growth of this. The intent in cutting away portions of the vine is to leave only a sufficient number of buds on canes of the current season's growth to give such an amount of fruit the coming season as the age and strength of the vine can support.

Pruning should be varied somewhat to suit the habit of different varieties. The stronger growing varieties should have more wood allowed than the weaker. The vines should not be allowed to bear much fruit until strong enough to grow vigorous canes with strong laterals. Vigorous laterals develop near their base productive fruit buds. These laterals are cut back to from 4-6 buds depending on the age and strength of the vine. Allow as much fruit to set as the vine can support and grow to perfection in quality.

The third season it would not be well to allow the vine to bear more than 15-20 bunches. The fourth season a well handled vineyard is nearly full bearing. The fifth and sixth years probably near its best.

In setting posts to support the wires, if they are paced 30 feet apart, strong stays can be used for middle supports. The end post should be strong; well braced No. 12 wire is heavy enough for us. After the vineyard is old enough to be supported by wire, we have found it profitable to still continue to trim the vine late in October or early November, cutting the canes loose from the wires, drop them on the ground with perhaps 2-3 forksful of straw to each vine, over this place sufficient soil to keep the wind from blowing through the straw and driving out the cane. This protection is not only beneficial to the canes, but is of value in protecting the root system from our dry winters. We regard this protection useful any year, and absolutely essential for our most trying winters. Early in April uncover the vines rising the canes tie to wires, using some soft string like wool twine, soft enough and large enough not to chafe the cane. It will be found that the vine will remain dormant longer if taken and tied to wire than if allowed to remain under cover of straw or soil.

We have found it profitable in Saline county to cover all varieties each and every winter. We can not foretell when the trials of a severe winter will have to be endured.

E. F. STEPHENS.

Crete, Neb.

**COUNTRY LIFE AND AMERICA.**

The December number of Country Life in America emphasizes the unique character of this large magazine with beautiful illustrations. Besides the flowers and gardens this month, there is much about the world out of doors in December, including a special Christmas cover of unusual design, and a large photograph, over three feet long, of the big-tree forest of California, put in as a supplement. "An Outlook on Winter," by L. H. Bailey, is the leading article, being