

after planting the vines grow to a height of 6' to 7' when they are trained on a pandal constructed for the purpose with Malakiluvai (*Balsodendron Betti*) as live standards and Agathi (*Sesbania grandiflora*) as cross posts.

Care should be taken to keep the vines free from pests and diseases appearing during different parts of the year. Twelve months after planting, the vines are given the first pruning — the important operation without which there will be no fruiting of vines. It is found by experience that vines growing vertically do not bear so well as the branches that grow horizontally, and the best results are obtained by the 'Bower' or pandal system in which the vines are allowed to spread over a pandal shaped and trained to convenience. By the process of pruning the sap is diverted to flow to the fruiting area, keeping the vines in manageable shape and makes them bear heavily. Fruits are borne near the base of the growing shoots of the season, shoots which spring from the wood of last year's growth, and vines are pruned following this principle.

Harvesting: Three months after pruning, grapes are harvested when fully ripe, and texture of the pulp and taste alone will give correct indication of ripeness, and since the colour varies according to varieties that alone is not a conclusive proof of ripeness. Grape bunches when once harvested do not ripen afterwards. Bunches should be carefully handled by the stem while harvesting, trimming and packing. Enough quantity required for daily despatch should alone be harvested. Unless facilities for cold storage are provided fruits will be unfit for despatch after twentyfour hours.

Packing: Bunches are examined and after trimming of useless cracked, unripe and rotten fruits, they are packed in bamboo baskets. Paddy straw is used as padding between each layer, and each basket holds 25 pounds or 1 maund. Small earthen pots are also used in packing grapes intended for places where there is transhipment.

Marketing: This is the most important item and unless there are facilities to market one's produce (this fruit being succulent has no keeping quality and should be disposed of as early as possible) it is not advisable and also not profitable to grow this crop on a commercial scale. There should be easy and quick transport facilities from the garden to the railway station and from there to the different parts of the Presidency. Another important factor in getting good profit is to avoid middlemen, and arrangements should be made to have Fruit Growers Association and Co-operative Societies with whose aid the produce of the various gardens may be sold with advantage. Contributed by Sri. C. Rangaswami, Plant Protection Assistant, Mycology, Madura.