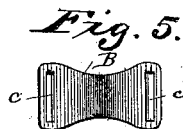
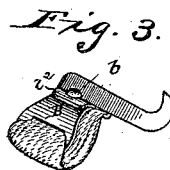
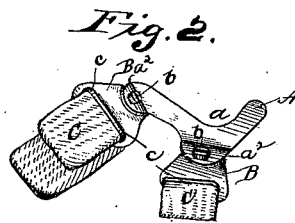


(No Model.)

E. PROBST.
FRUIT GATHERER.

No. 343,490.

Patented June 8, 1886.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMADEUS PROBST, OF CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS.

FRUIT-GATHERER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 343,490, dated June 8, 1886.

Application filed August 19, 1884. Serial No. 140,988. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMADEUS PROBST, a citizen of the United States, residing at Centralia, in the county of Marion and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fruit-Gatherers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to a cutter for removing such fruit as grapes, melons, strawberries, and similar fruit from the vine, where it is desirable that the stems should be cut instead of broken.

The invention is also adapted for use for trimming shrubs, vines, &c.; and it has for its object to provide a device of this character which may be readily attached to the hand.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the character above mentioned which shall be cheap and simple in its construction, effective in its operation, and one that will be strong and durable.

With these ends in view the invention consists in the improved construction of cutter, in the means for its attachment to the hand, and in the various details of construction hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a fruit or vine cutter constructed in accordance with my invention, showing the same adjusted upon the hand and in position for operation. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of the cutter. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a modification. Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical section of Fig. 2, and Fig. 5 is a detail plan of one of the concave plates for the attachment of straps or loops.

In the accompanying drawings, in which like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures, A represents the cutter, which is preferably of steel, and consisting of a single blade having a sharp cutting-edge. The forward end of this cutter is turned upwardly at or nearly at right angles to the body portion of the cutter, as shown at *a*. This bending of the cutter at its forward end is an essential feature of my invention, the purpose of which will be more fully described. Upon the lower end of the cutter, at the point at which the cutter is bent, there

is an ear or lug, *a*², which is preferably formed integral with the cutter, and projecting from the outer side thereof at right angles thereto. This lug is provided with a hole or opening, and secured to said lug is a concave plate, B, said plate B having two or more screw-threaded openings for the passage of a fastening-screw, *b*, which also engages the opening in the lug *a*². The sides of said plate are hollowed out or cut away, and it is provided at its ends with slots *c*.

C represents a loop or strap, which is preferably of elastic or flexible material, said loop or strap being secured in the slots at each end of the plate B. At the rear end of the cutter is provided an outwardly-extending lug and a concave plate secured thereto, which are of the same construction and secured together in the same manner as the ones already described, with the exception that the loop or strap C has a free doubled end, which passes through the slot on the opposite side of the plate from which it is attached.

The device above described is applied to the hand in the following manner: The forefinger is inserted through the loops or straps and the rear strap drawn tight upon the finger. The free doubled end is then engaged by the middle finger, which holds it in place. The forward or front concave plate is located between the first and second joint of the forefinger, and as it is concave it conforms to the shape of said finger. As the sides of the concave plates are cut away or hollowed out, they fit in the joints of the finger, thus insuring a firm grip or hold on the cutter, and, further, the plates do not cut or injure the hand. The end of the forefinger bears against the upturned front end of the cutter. Thus the maximum amount of pressure or force may be brought to bear on the cutter when in operation.

It will be seen from the above description that by locating the front concave plate at the point at which the cutter is bent it conforms to the curvature of the finger, and the end of the finger is enabled to bear firmly against the upturned end of the cutter, for the purpose above mentioned. The rear end of the rear concave plate fits the joint at the junction of the forefinger with the hand, and thus pre-

vents the moving of the cutter upon the hand when pressed by the finger to cut a vine or other object.

A cutter constructed in accordance with my invention is cheap, simple, and effective, and is adapted for various purposes.

I have shown a modification in Fig. 3, in which I employ only one plate and one loop. In this case the plate fits between the first and second joint, and the cutter is made somewhat smaller than usual.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a cutter having the upturned front end and consisting of a single blade, of concave plates secured to the cutter and loops secured to the plates, as set forth.

2. The combination, with a cutter consisting of a single blade having the upturned front end, of concave plates attached to said cutter and flexible loops attached to the plates, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination, with a cutter having an upturned front end, and having lugs provided with openings, of plates and loops engaging said plates, for the purpose set forth.

4. The combination, with a cutter having the upturned front end, and having lugs provided with openings, of concave plates and flexible loops.

5. The combination, with a cutter, of plates having slots at their ends and flexible loops engaging said slots.

6. The combination, with a cutter, of concave plates having slots at their ends and flexible loops engaging said slots.

7. The combination, with a cutter having the upturned front end, of a concave plate located at the point at which said cutter is bent

and a loop for its attachment to the hand, substantially as set forth.

8. The combination, with a cutter having an upturned front end, said cutter having lugs extending outwardly from its lower end, one of said lugs being located at the point at which said cutter is bent, of concave plates secured to said lugs, and flexible loops secured to said plates, as set forth.

9. The combination, with a cutter having a plate at its rear end, said plate having slots, as shown, of a flexible loop secured in one of said slots, its double end being passed through the other slot to form a loop, to accommodate the middle finger of the hand, substantially as set forth.

10. The herein-described fruit and vine cutter, having the upturned front end, and having outwardly-extending lugs, each of which is provided with an opening, and concave plates secured to said lugs, said plates having a slot at each end and elastic straps secured in said slots, the rear strap having its free doubled end passed through the slot on the opposite side of the plate to accommodate the middle finger of the hand, as set forth.

11. The combination, with a cutter, of a plate attached thereto, and having a slot at each end, a flexible loop secured in one of said slots at one end, its other end being passed through the slot on the other end of the plate, as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EMADEUS PROBST.

Witnesses:

R. BARRON,
D. T. HOOVER.