

# KENTUCKY FRUIT NOTES

W. D. Armstrong, Horticulturist, Editor

## THE KENTUCKY STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The 89th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky State Horticultural Society, the College of Agriculture and Home Economics cooperating, was held at Mayfield on Friday, January 18, 1946. An unusually large number of fruit growers were in attendance from Kentucky and nearby points in Tennessee, Missouri, and Illinois. All officers were re-elected—Herman Yopp, Paducah, president; William Fegenbush, Louisville, vice president; Dr. D. W. Doran, Mayfield, vice president; Wendell Van Hoose, Paintsville, vice president; and W. W. Magill, Lexington, secretary-treasurer.

On the morning program Paul Shepard, Director of the Missouri Fruit Experiment Station at Mountain Grove, talked on early apple production. The U. S. apple tree population has been shrinking for a number of years, he said, and the nation will soon be producing far too few apples unless tree planting is resumed at an early date. Of special interest to western Kentucky growers was his statement that this section could put early apples on the market almost as soon as any other section in the United States and that this asset should be taken advantage of. Production of early apples in blocks separated from late-maturing apples was suggested, in order to reduce the codling moth hazard in the early apple blocks. Such varieties as Lodi, Red Bird, Close, Henry Clay, and Yellow Transparent were suggested as worthy of trial.

A short summary of the very important work of the National Apple Institute, the National Peach Council, and the Fruit Foundation was given by Frank Street of Henderson. W. D. Armstrong gave a report on some of the highlights of the Illinois State Horticultural So-

ciety meeting held at Springfield, Illinois, early in December. Many interesting and valuable suggestions on fruit varieties and culture, disease and insect control were reported.

The afternoon session was devoted entirely to discussion of insect and disease control. Dr. L. F. Steiner of the Federal Insect Laboratory, at Vincennes, Indiana, reported in detail on the results of their 1945 DDT experiments for control of codling moth. Spray programs containing DDT alone and DDT in combination with arsenate of lead and nicotine combinations had again given excellent codling moth control. In his opinion DDT promises to be of great value in apple orchards where growers have not been able to control codling moth with sprays containing arsenate of lead, nicotine, and summer oil. Of equal interest, however, was his warning that unrestricted use of DDT could bring about some very serious consequences in apple production. The common red spider and the European red mite tend to multiply in large numbers late in the season on trees where earlier sprays of DDT have killed parasites. If the red mite or red spider injury is not noticed and corrective sprays applied, serious defoliation and injury to the trees often occur. A large part of the 1946 program of work is to be devoted to further studies on the control of these red mites and spiders.

Dr. P. O. Ritcher reported on the control of oriental fruit moth with DDT and other materials in tests at the Eison orchard near Paducah. (These tests were reported in detail in the March issue of **Kentucky Fruit Notes**.) He also reviewed the curculio situation of 1945 with suggestions for 1946 control.

The Kentucky fruit spray schedules and spray service plans for 1946 were discussed by W. D. Arm-

**CIRCULAR OF THE KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

strong. Emphasis was put on the importance of each grower knowing his local insect and disease problems and devoting time and effort toward carrying out the best possible spray program combined with orchard sanitation, using the best materials available.

### THE NATIONAL PEACH COUNCIL MEETING

Representatives of virtually every peach producing state came together at St. Louis on February 19, 20, and 21 for the Annual Meeting of the National Peach Council. Again, the organization fully measured up to its record of service to the industry by facing squarely the national peach situation from the viewpoint of all producing districts. The greater need for organized effort in the years immediately ahead, which are certain to bring heavy peach production and a questionable economic situation, was recognized, and it was voted to double each state's assessment.

The Council was very helpful in moving the 82 million bushel record crop in 1945 through close contacts with the national independent and chain-store organizations. State-by-state reports indicated another heavy crop in prospect for 1946, but lighter than the '45 crop.

The whole theme of the meeting centered around increasing peach consumption by putting a better product in the hands of housewives. Toward this end, the need for higher quality hardy varieties of early to late ripening season was stressed. Several states and the U. S. Department of Agriculture are making excellent progress in developing these new peaches. Delayed harvest to give greater maturity and tree-ripened fruit was stressed at length as a means of getting better quality and larger production. Proper thinning, soil management, fertilization, insect and disease control; careful picking, packing, and carrying, quick pre-cooling; and prompt deliveries all along the line, were also stressed. The urgent need for better ventilated and non-bruising types of containers of perhaps different sizes was pointed out, as well as the need for better refrigerator cars, and refrigerated

show cases and retail counters. An encouraging feature was that much work on all of these lines was reported, and the producers and distributors both seemed to be grasping the idea that peach consumption possibilities in the United States are almost unlimited if housewives can be assured of getting a continuous supply of ripe, sound, high-quality fruit.

If you, as a grower, have not done your part in helping to support the National Peach Council, you should do so.

### HOSE THINNING OF PEACHES KENTUCKY — 1945

While various systems of hose, stick, and pole thinning of peaches have been put forward from time to time, it took the large peach crop and acute labor shortage of 1945 to bring this method of thinning into general practice in Kentucky. Confronted with a tremendous thinning job and with little or no extra labor in sight, peach growers faced a desperate situation. Some growers took up the practice because they had read of it in recent articles in fruit papers and magazines describing hose thinning. Others were acquainted with the method through personal demonstrations and meetings. In the end, fully 75 percent of Kentucky growers with heavy peach crops used hose thinning.

The various tools devised for thinning were interesting to see, as almost every orchardist had a special type of stick or hose, or a special way of attaching the hose to the stick. Most generally used was a light sprout about 1 inch in diameter at the base, ½ inch at the top, and 4 to 6 feet long. To the smaller end was attached a piece of discarded stiff spray hose about 15 inches long. Some preferred to have the pole extend only 2 or 3 inches into the hose, others for it to extend inside to within 3 or 4 inches of the far end of the hose. Still others used sticks slightly sharpened, with the top 10 or 12 inches wrapped with innertube strips or insulating tape. For the low limbs some used the short section of hose held in the hand.

The most common method in thinning was to tap the small limbs

so as to jar off some of the fruits. Workers soon learned how hard to tap the limbs. Some also tapped directly into clusters of fruit to knock off the excess. Most growers were impressed with how quickly a tree could be thinned by this system. Close supervision was needed. Some growers found out, to their sorrow, that over-enthusiastic boys without supervision could do much damage in a short time. In general, one man could pole-thin or hose-thin a tree in 5 minutes that would take 45 minutes to thin by the old hand method.

Many growers had the idea of going over the orchard first with hose thinning and then checking back over the trees later by hand to smooth out the crop-load a bit more. While some were able to do this, most were not able to get back for the hand thinning. Some went over their orchard two and three times with their hose-thinning crews.

At first some growers feared that remaining peaches would be injured so as not to develop normally. This was not the case, however, for while a few peaches were affected, the crop as a whole matured satisfactorily.

All in all, hose thinning turned out to be such a labor-saving process that many growers will no doubt retain it even after the wartime shortage of labor is past. It is one of the biggest changes and speedups in standard orchard production practices in recent years.

## EARLY APPLES

**PAUL H. SHEPARD, Director**  
Missouri State Fruit Experiment  
Station, Mountain Grove, Missouri

*Note: This paper was presented by the author at the Kentucky State Horticultural Society Meeting at Mayfield, Kentucky on January 18, 1946.*

First, I want to give you a few facts and figures on apple production in the United States. This information was taken from a cooperative report by Washington State and the U. S. D. A., and gives a fair picture of conditions at the time it was written.

The greatest factor, in normal time, in determining apple prices, is supply. According to U. S. D. A. statistics, apple production for the

next 17 years will depend on the present age of apple trees, and, in general, the apple trees in the United States are old. Relatively small plantings were made between 1930 and 1940, indicating the United States volume of apple production will decrease between 1940 and 1960. A probable estimate of the production by 1960 would represent a reduction of about 30 percent. Apple production will begin to decline sharply between 1946 and 1951, if the average life of an apple orchard is thirty-six years, later if the average life is older. Taking all fruits into consideration, it is predicted that the production will be as follows: **Apples**—Downward production nationally as much as 30 percent to 40 percent by 1950; possibly 50 percent by 1960, unless heavy plantings are made in the 40's. **Pears**—Production upward nationally. **Peaches**—No decline in production. **Cherries**—High, at least until 1950. **Apricots**—Moderate decline to 1950. **Citrus**—Upward, furnishing strong competition for other fruits.

Apples are the only major fruit with a prediction of less production. Normally, when the supply gets low and the prices go up, there is a scramble to plant trees. However, since the war started the supply of apples has been inadequate, beginning in 1942 instead of 1946, as predicted above. There has been the incentive to plant, but little planting has been done since 1941 for the following reasons:

1. People have migrated from the farms to the cities.
2. There has been a severe shortage of help.
3. An extreme shortage of nursery stock, and, consequently very high-priced nursery stock.
4. Even with fruit-growing looming as a profitable business, it has had to compete with high wages, and other profitable business enterprises.
5. Growers are afraid of the codling moth.

Now that the war is over, what is going to happen to the apple industry from a grower's standpoint? From all records that I have been able to find, we are entering a period of underproduction. Many of our orchards are old. Of course, the prices obtained the past

few years have caused most all bearing orchards to receive better care, and more production has been obtained. But better care does not reduce the age of our trees. Looking into the future, one of the finest investments I know of today is an apple orchard about 12 years of age. If we drop that age down to 6 years, it is still an excellent investment. How few of us have such investments now. Just how good is an investment in an orchard 1 year old, or 1 year old next year, if we plant this year? The disadvantages of planting now are almost as bad as during the war because of labor shortage, and scarce, high-priced nursery stock. However, if it is to be done, the sooner we can plant the better.

If the prediction of low production from 1950 to 1960 is true,—if very few plantings have been made in the early 40's,—if you can overcome present planting difficulties, and various angles mentioned above, I say by all means plant an apple orchard.

Just to show how our apple population is diminishing, I will read the following government figures:

Number of bearing apple trees in the United States 1910, 151 million; 1920, 115 million; 1925, 104 million; 1930, 89 million; 1935, 82 million; 1940, 74 million; 1945, 66 million (estimated).

About 20 million trees need to be planted every 10 years to maintain 70 million trees in this country. We are not getting anywhere near that number planted.

Dr. J. R. Magness, chief of fruit work in the U. S. D. A., made the following statement in 1941: "The apple industry today appears to be in the soundest basic position of any of the larger fruit crops in the United States, from a standpoint of production trends. Some plantings of orchards to replace old orchards, which are now past their commercial peak, seems desirable."

I don't know just what he would say today, but believe he would more strongly urge apple planting. There has been very little since 1941.

So much for the apple situation in general. Regarding early apples, and this section of the country, there is one point that stands out clearly, and I am sure you are all

aware of it. There is a distinct market advantage in growing a fruit on either the northern or southern edge of where that crop can grow. By growing cherries, for example, in Michigan in the north, they have the advantage of low national production and higher prices at marketing time. By growing apples, particularly early apples, in Tennessee or Kentucky, you have the same advantage early in the season; that is, smaller national production and less competition at your marketing time. I may be wrong, but I know of no location in the United States that can put apples on the market earlier than you can.

There are some disadvantages to growing early apples, as you all know.

The weather is hot and they must be picked, packed and marketed in a hurry. The markets locally can be easily flooded and your off-grade apples are more difficult to handle in mid-summer than in the fall. The poorer grades go down faster than the better grades.

Early apples are inclined to be tender, have flesh with large cells, and, consequently, bruise easily. They are more perishable and do not stand rough handling as well as late apples.

On the average it is more difficult to grow large early apples than large late apples, and size is very important.

However, the advantages so far outweigh the disadvantages of growing summer apples that it makes an unfair debate.

Probably the most important advantage is that mentioned above; that is, your ability to cash in on an early open market. Next comes the fact that codling moth is only about one-third the problem it is with late apples. There are less sprays and, therefore, less costs in production. In the Arkansas 55th Annual Report, they state that on isolated blocks of early apples, harvested before July 15, the second and third generations of codling moths are starved out. The second year only 5 percent worms were counted with only one worm spray, which was the calyx. So, the codling moth problem had been almost avoided where only blocks of early-ripening apples were grown. Mixing blocks of summer

apples, fall apples and winter apples makes the problem of control more difficult. In a mixed orchard it is much easier for the codling moth to develop, and maintain his two or three broods if he can select the riper fruit for his home as the season develops. A Jonathan and Transparent orchard mixed will have more worms on both varieties than if either were grown alone.

Summer apples are as resistant to winter and frost damage as the later varieties. Bitter rot is more extensive on late apples than on early apples, in south Missouri. Early apples bring in money at a time when it is most needed. The risk of drouth, hail and wind is reduced, if we harvest the crop early. The cost of raising a bushel of apples is less on early apples.

### Varieties

When we select early varieties to compete on the market, we are as interested in the picking dates as we are in the ripening dates. The picking date may be the ripe date, or it may be earlier if the fruit is large enough.

The picking and ripening date of the Close apple is about the same, as it will color almost over night, and it should have some color to sell. At Mountain Grove, that date is about June 28, or about seven days earlier than Transparent. I have never seen a commercial planting of Close trees. The few trees we have at the station are 14 years old, and have borne about 6 crops. The tree characteristics are good. It is upright, sturdy, and a vigorous grower. The leaves are large like the Astrachan, one of its parents. Production has not been heavy, nor has it been light. It is not an alternate bearer, as yet. As you know, it ripens very unevenly and must be picked six or eight times. The apple is medium sized, of good quality, juicy and briskly acid. It is the earliest ripening apple of over 500 varieties tested at the station. When we received our Close trees from the U. S. D. A., we also received the following: U. S. 15, 48, 49, 30, and 312. All of them resemble Close but ripen later. Some are better in size, color and evenness of ripening. So far as I know, Close (#57) is the only one named. There are several other varieties at the sta-

tion that ripen before Transparent. Most of them, like Early May, Liveland, and Colton, are so poor in one way or another that they are not worth considering. The variety Early Ripe is the same as Transparent.

We have only three trees of Crimson Beauty, sometimes called Early Red Bird, growing at the station. They are on poor ground and interplanted in an older orchard, so we have no fair basis to form an opinion of them from our experience. According to those three trees, which were planted in 1937, they are very light croppers when young; in fact, they have borne only a few apples on each tree in the last two years. However, most trees I have observed in North Missouri are splendid growing trees. They ripen at or about the time of Transparent and can be picked a few days earlier. The fruit is of good size, tart and hangs on the trees well. It probably needs spot picking over a period of ten days. Production is fair and annual.

The best early apple we grow at the station is Lodi. Although it does not ripen until a few days after Transparent, it can be picked at the same time. It is unquestionably larger and although it does not bear as heavy as the "on" year of an alternating Transparent, it has a crop every year. Tree characteristics are better, as it produces a tree with well-spaced leaders and good crotches. At the station it does not blight as much as Transparent. The fruit has the texture and quality of Transparent, which the consumer of early apples looks for.

So much depends on size in an early apple of the Lodi, Transparent, or Wrixparent type, that we can overlook some less important adverse characteristics. I have seen large Transparents sell for \$1.50 per bushel, when small ones would not bring 75c. I have seen scabby large ones sell, when clean small ones would not sell.

When we see a new variety producing large apples on a young tree, it may be a mistake to take it for granted the fruit will always be large. They may be large on a young tree and too small on a mature tree. I believe it is agreed that the Transparent-type apple makes excellent applesauce. In a New York report recently, it was

stated that "Canned apple products accounted for 11 percent of all apples sold either canned or fresh by retail stores in Upper New York. Applesauce represented practically all of proportion." Eleven percent represents a large amount of apples, and the consumption of canned applesauce is increasing. It is my opinion that with an over-production year, we will see a great deal more processing in one way or another than we have ever seen in the past.

I mentioned a while ago the variety Wrixparent. I personally do not know the Wrixparent variety. It is highly advertised as a very early, large apple of the Transparent type, but earlier. I understand from growers here at the meeting that it has a local reputation for slow growth as a young tree.

The Carolina Red June is a fine red apple ripening about 5 days after Transparent, but it is inclined to be small, which just about eliminates it as a variety to plant. The Early Harvest, as grown in south Missouri, is not a profitable variety. It is too small, soft and has a poor green color, and has a tendency to darken when cooked.

I understand the variety Henry Clay has been mentioned and planted as a possible worthy apple to compete with Transparent in this part of the country. In south Missouri, where we have grown Henry Clay in a block for 22 years, we find its ripening date almost two weeks after Transparent. I don't doubt but what it could be picked earlier, as it has large size. We do not recommend it for planting in our locality, as the tree makes a rather poor growth, the fruit lacks finish, is not of good appearance, and drops badly. There are other varieties ripening at that time which are better.

A very fine red apple ripening two to three weeks after Transparent is Carlton. It is a New York introduction and described by them as large, round-conic, with an attractive red color. As we grow it at the station the tree is vigorous, bears annual large crops of juicy sub-acid apples, which keep and ship well. One excellent characteristic is its habit of bearing young.

Other summer varieties that have done exceedingly well at the station are Summer Champion,

Grays Red, Skelton, Carson, Early McIntosh, and Pennock. They all ripen from two to four weeks after Transparent and probably do not fit with any plan to get the first apples on the market. At any rate, in your locality, they would be the first of those varieties on the market.

There is no question but what the tree population of the United States is very low, and if no more trees are planted from 1946 to 1950 than from 1940 to 1945, a great many apple districts are going to be out of business. When planning to plant a new orchard sufficient capital should be available to carry it through the first 10 years after planting. If not available, the acreage should be reduced to come within the amount obtainable, or the planting may be a disappointment. On the other hand, I've seen enthusiasm nearly make up for some capital.

You have the soil, the climate, the transportation, the storage facilities, the markets, and all the attributes that go to make a good producing center. It's rather selfish and narrow to say, "I'm too old to plant an orchard." It is likely that there is no other kind of work you would like to do so well as growing fruit. Even if you have no children or relatives to follow, what better heritage is there to leave to our country than a good orchard, a sample of a job well done.

## PLUM CURCULIO SITUATION

W. D. ARMSTRONG

Plum curculio adults made their appearance earlier this spring and in greater numbers than in any year that we have record of. The first adult was jarred from a peach tree near Paducah by a grower on March 18. On March 20, two adults were collected by jarring at the Spray Service Headquarters at Princeton. On March 24 and 26 adults were collected in large numbers (8 to 27 per tree), chiefly on the two or three outside rows, by jarring or "bumping" trees in some commercial peach orchards near Paducah and Mayfield. At that time, many petals still remained on the peach blossoms, it being a unique experience in this section

to pick curculio out from among petals that had fallen to the jarring sheet.

Word of this early emergence was spread by postcard, telephone and spray letter. Many growers applied an arsenical spray or dust at once on the portions where adults were found. Others waited and sprayed or dusted the whole orchards when the shucks were splitting rather than at the usual time when shucks were off.

Dissection of the early emerged adults showed that mature eggs were not present this year until April 1 or not until about 12 days after adults were first located. This is in contrast to the springs of 1944 and 1945. For, in those years adults had mature eggs as soon as they appeared on the tree. In those years, however, they did not appear as early in the stage of development of the fruit as in 1946.

At present, May 15, there are a great many wormy drops present under peach trees in the Mayfield, Paducah, and Henderson sections; yet, they are much more difficult to find in the Louisville section. This indicates that there will be a heavy summer brood developing from these present worms, and if conditions are right, a very heavy second brood could develop in western Kentucky and possibly over the whole state. Second-brood cages have been stocked from Louisville and Lexington south and second-brood development will be studied and reported to growers in time for use in second-brood applications.

### A NEW FRUIT PUBLICATION

Of general interest to most fruit growers is a new publication, "Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest." This is a quarterly bulletin of the American Pomological Society and is devoted to the discussion of new and old fruit varieties as they are performing in the various fruit sections of the country. In other words, this bulletin will serve as a clearing house for new variety and orchard information of general interest. The publication is sent to all paid-up members of the American Pomological Society. Those desiring simply to receive the publica-

tion regularly can do so by sending the \$1.00 subscription fee to the bulletin c/o Dr. Wesley P. Judkins, Editor, Wooster, Ohio.

### THE RED DELICIOUS APPLE HAS DEVELOPED MANY FAULTS

M. A. BLAKE

#### New Jersey Experiment Station

When large and well colored, the Red Delicious apple has been popular on fruit stands because of its mild acid flavor. The planting of the apple is often promoted largely because of these fruit qualities. Commercial profit, however, depends to a considerable degree upon tree performance in the orchard.

The Delicious tree is a rather upright grower and inclined to form weak crotches. It is late in coming into bearing and does not crop well upon some dense soils where Wealthy or Rome succeed. The variety is more sensitive to soil acidity than McIntosh or Baldwin. The foliage is the delight of the European red mite. It is further susceptible to arsenical burning. The variety tends to be biennial in bearing and is outcropped by McIntosh, Stayman, Grimes, Rome and even Baldwin at New Brunswick. These facts indicate how badly many New Jersey growers need a better variety than Red Delicious.

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### NEW SLANTS ON FRUIT INSECT CONTROL

By P. O. RITCHER

To whip the codling moth, plant apple orchards only with early varieties. That's the gist of a recent article by Whitehead of the Oklahoma A & M College. His figures show that of the codling moths developing on varieties picked by August 15, less than 2 percent of the worms hibernate. Thus there would be a very small carry-over.

A new material for peach tree borer control, propylene dichloride, has been developed by our friend

Dr. Snapp of the Georgia Federal Peach Insect Laboratory. Propylene dichloride is much like ethylene dichloride, but is said to be safer and costs less per tree.

Dr. Snapp also has good news about cat-facing of peaches. Both DDT dusts (5 to 10%) and DDT sprays (1 or 2 pounds of actual DDT per 100 gallons), put on during full bloom, reduced the number of cat-faces from 42.4 percent to less than 12 percent.

Trunk sprays are being used in the Pacific Northwest to kill overwintering codling moth larvae. Yothers and Carlson of the Federal Bureau of Entomology killed from 84 to 99 percent of the codling moth worms with a single March application of a 4,6-dinitro-o-Cresol Spray. The spray concentrate is now on the market.

## HINTS AND OBSERVATIONS

W. W. MAGILL

### Apple Scab

This was not a bad year for apple scab, yet I visited two neglected orchards this week where scab had completely taken the crop of Delicious, Winesap, and Stayman. Over half the leaves are now covered with scab or have already been dwarfed.

### Peach Leaf Injury

No, lime sulfur is not the same as wettable sulfur. I visited a small peach orchard last week which had carried a nice crop of fruit. A neighbor had told the owner to spray with lime sulfur 1-150. It did a swell job of burning off the leaves and the fruit dropped. Wettable sulfur would have caused no injury.

### Peach Cat-Face Control

Our experimental dusting with DDT in the blossom stage of peaches for cat-face control looks very promising. We shall give you a complete report at harvest time.

### Apple Varieties for the Future

We made a poll among a group of our experienced Kentucky apple growers, asking "What variety of apples and what percent of each would you set, if planting a new apple orchard in Kentucky?" Neither Winesap nor Black Twig were mentioned. No one gave De-

licious over 10 percent and only 2 mentioned Delicious. Golden Delicious stole the show, with 25 to 60 percent of the total planting. Rome, Grimes Golden, Wealthy, Polly Eades, Gano, and Transparent all carried a good poll.

### Strawberry Crop Losses

A combination of April frosts and wet weather in late April and May reduced strawberry yields by 50 percent, and 90 percent in extreme cases. Many small garden patches that were covered during cold nights, however, made fine yields.

## KENTUCKY FRUIT EXHIBITS

With a nice crop of apples and other fruits being produced, visitors should see some fine fruit exhibits in late summer and early fall at the Kentucky State Fair and at the district and county fairs. The State Fair at Louisville will be held during the last week of August. Fruit growers are encouraged to exhibit some of their fine fruit and to share in the premium awards.

Early ripening apples, such as Polly Eades, Paducah and Wealthy and some peaches and grapes will have to be kept on cold storage for a short time ahead of the fair. Fall apples such as Jonathan, Grimes, Red Delicious and Golden Delicious and winter varieties such as Stayman, Rome, Turley, Winesap and Black Ben Davis will have good color and can be picked and brought directly to the exhibit. The same is true of late peaches, grapes, plums, damsons and pears.

For the State Fair entry blanks stating which exhibits one intends to make should be mailed in to the fair office by August 20. These blanks and premium lists can be had upon written request from the Ky. State Fair office, Louisville, Ky.

Remember that fruit for exhibit should be free of bruises or insect and disease injury, should be of average size and color for the variety, should be uniform in size shape and color and such kinds as apples, pears and plums should have stems in place.

There is a great deal of satisfaction in winning blue ribbons on ones fruit. Try it and see. If you cannot bring your fruit, sent it carefully packed and labeled and the fruit department will exhibit it for you.