

GRADING FRUIT.

THE proper grading of fruit has much to do with its selling and keeping qualities. The term grading, as generally used, is applied to size alone, but assorting as to color and ripeness is no less important. Much of the fruit found in our home markets is of the most indifferent sort and is packed in a slipshod, go-as-you-please manner. One green or ill-shaped peach will detract from a whole box, no matter how fine the others may appear. One soft apricot packed in a box intended to keep a few days may lose you the profit upon the whole box. A green or soft strawberry in a basket when seen by a buyer will lead him to believe that there are others of the same sort further down in the basket.

True, it is some trouble to grade your fruit in this way and it requires skill and decision in the packer. It should be remembered, however, that we are in the business to make money and that trouble must be expected and competent help employed, if we are to hear the clink of gold in our pockets. If fruit is properly graded, facing is honest and legitimate; but only too often is it used as a cloak by which to filch a few cents from the unsuspecting public. In some of our markets you hardly dare buy a box of berries or fruit of any kind without first removing the top layer to see if the remainder is trash. This is plain talking to the "honest farmer," but it is true and the prevalence of this evil has many times curtailed the demand for fruit by disgusting the consumers and has brought disgrace upon fruit growers in general. There is but one way to pack fruit profitably and honorably, if your reputation is of any value whatever. Grade it; grade it carefully for size, color and ripeness. Every right-minded grower, packer and shipper should insist upon trio grading, and should stamp all fruit shipped as such, so that the purchaser may be certain of the quality of his purchase. In this way honest growers and packers can, in a measure, protect themselves and the public against those who are unscrupulous and careless in their methods.—*California Fruit Grower*.

BLIGHT IN PEAR TREES.

IN my correspondence in last September's HORTICULTURIST, I told you that blight had affected the pear trees rather badly. Little did I think then that it caused such destruction among them. I then thought that it took somewhere in the branches, and that if we were to cut it off some distance below the discoloration and apply linseed oil