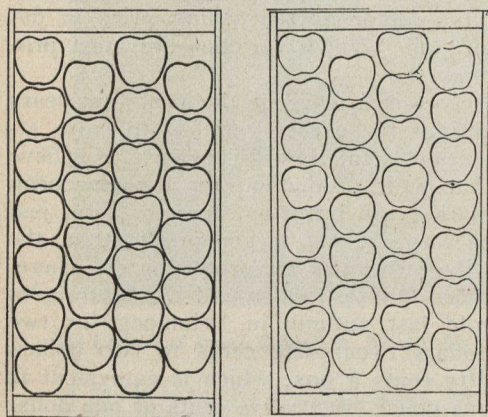


shortest possible time from the orchard. Of course, in the case of pears and apples this does not hold good.

For packing peaches in boxes the four and a half by eleven by eighteen inches is the standard size of box. The peaches are wrapped and packed in two tiers, the diagonal pack being the only pack that should be used.

APPLE PACKS.

In packing apples there are three well defined styles of pack used, viz., the



The "Diagonal" Pack. Figures 4 and 5

These figures represent 107 and 120 apples to the box.

straight pack, the offset, and the diagonal. The straight pack should not be considered a commercial pack. Every apple is placed directly over another, and there can be no give to the package without more or less bruising. The apples must be almost shaped alike to pack and fill each row and tier. This pack is shown in Figures one and two. The apples can be placed either on their side or on end.

The offset is shown in Figure three. Any sized apple can be packed in one of

the many variations of this pack. Apples carry well and it is a good commercial pack for new beginners. The pack, however, that shows off the best and also carries the fruit in as good shape as any is the diagonal, as shown in Figures four and five. The first layer is placed as in Figure six and the second as in Figure seven. Each apple rests on the three below, and there is considerable give without any bruising. These three styles will allow of variations ranging into the hundreds.

The straight packed box will hold the least number of apples of a given size, and the diagonal the largest number, there being less space wasted. Figures eight and nine will show how the diagonal pack is started.

SECURING THE CROWN.

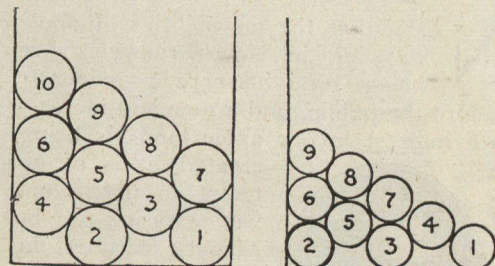
One important feature of a good pack is the crown or bulge in the centre. This is a bugbear for the beginner, as it is difficult to make the end rows come flush with the ends of the box, or slightly above them, and yet have the centre about an inch and a half higher. To secure a proper crown it is often necessary to turn part of the apples in the middle layer, or layers, flatwise, if being packed on cheek, or vice versa; yet skilful selection of the larger apples for the centre will usually make this unnecessary.

In the case of very large apples it is sometimes impossible to bring them low enough at the ends. It then becomes necessary to lay a cleat at each end under the cover. Frequent resource to this, however, is strong evidence of faulty packing. A crown of an inch and a half gives a bulge at top and bottom, when

the hand is placed upon them and an attempt made to move them back and forth there should be no perceptible slackness. Yet if there is no bulge, an otherwise perfect pack will soon become slack from handling and shrinkage.

TWO ESSENTIALS

Two essentials of a perfect pack are honesty and uniformity—that is, the



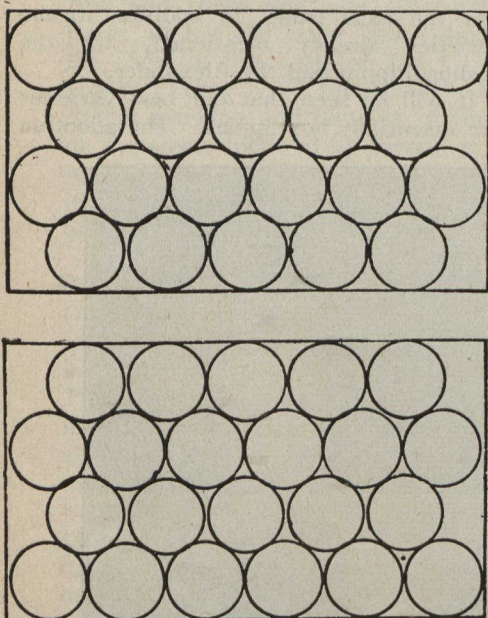
Start of the "Diagonal" Pack. Figs. 8 and 9

The diagram on the left shows the start of a 2-2 diagonal pack, and that on the right a 3-2 pack.

apples in the middle or bottom of a pack should be just as good as those on top, and all perfect.

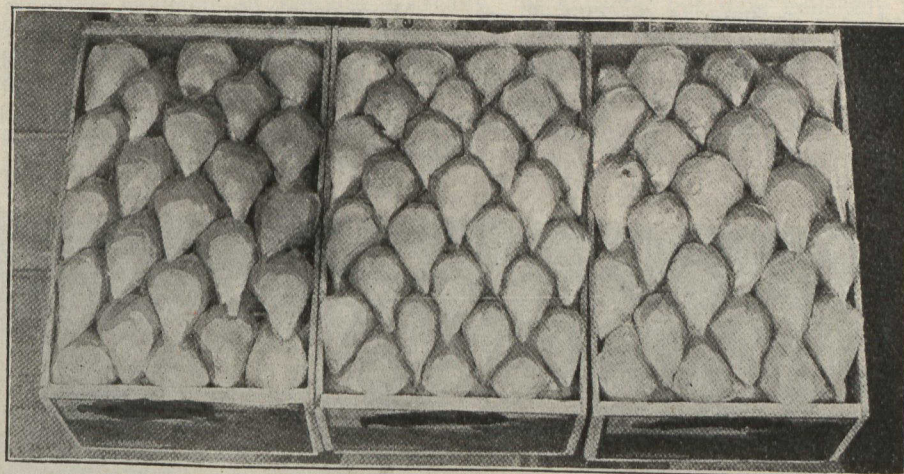
In packing pears the offset pack is the one usually adopted as shown in Figure ten. The box that should be used for wrapped pears is eight by eleven by twenty inches. The boxes should be made of one piece material and preferably of spruce or basswood, free from knots, using coated nails, as these do not draw out easily.

Pears should always be wrapped, as they carry much better. The time consumed in wrapping and packing the box of pears illustrated, containing about forty pounds net, will vary from eight to fifteen minutes according to the size of the pears and the skill of the packers.



The "Diagonal" Pack. Figs. 6 and 7

The upper diagram (6) represents the first and third layers, and the lower (7) the second and fourth. This pack gives 88 apples to the box.



A Fine "Commercial" Pack of Pears. Fig. 10

the cover is nailed on, of three-quarters of an inch, which experience has shown to be about right.

A greater bulge than three-quarters of an inch means too severe a pressure on the fruit; a less, too great danger of its becoming slack. In a properly packed box the apples in each layer should be so snugly fitted into each place that when

To succeed in obtaining fancy prices, the shipper must cater to special markets and be prepared to give careful attention to sending out good fruit and always well packed. Too many of our growers think that as long as the fruit is placed in a box that it is packed. The fruit in a poorly packed box would sell better in baskets or barrels.