

to grow, cultivate and prune them before we can expect to produce them successfully. Allow me first to tell something of the history of this beautiful fruit.

The peach belongs to the family of prunes (*Amygdalus Persica*.) It is claimed that it originated either in Persia or China. There is no question but that it came from Persia as its botanical name refers to that origin. It is known to have flourished in both Persia and China at a very early date and is mentioned by Pliny and other classical writers. It is not mentioned in the Bible but its congener the Almond is mentioned several times, as early as the days of Jacob, for we find that when Jacob was preparing presents for the Governor of Egypt he commanded his sons to take myrrh nuts and almonds as a gift, thus showing the esteem in which it was then held.

The peach, like civilization itself has travelled westward. We find it mentioned in Roman history in the reign of the Emperor Claudius, and it is still a standard tree in Italy. It was introduced into England from Italy about 1550, from there introduced into the U. S. when first colonized.

To the last named country is due the credit of producing peaches in sufficient quantities to allow them to become a common marketable commodity.

While the peach can be grown and successfully cultivated in the U.S. anywhere south of 42 degrees north latitude and under an altitude of 9000 ft. it is not so sure a crop north of 40 degrees. Still there are some localities and sections so situated as to be much better suited to the fruit than others. In no part of the world perhaps is the beneficial influence of large bodies of water on temperature more distinctly marked than in Michigan.

This state lies north of 42 degrees N. latitude yet notwithstanding this, she stands in the front rank of fruit growing states, and competes with Ohio and California in the production of peaches. Her success in the cultivation of this fruit has been wonderful.

A satisfactory explanation is found in her happy Geographical position. The state is almost surrounded by