

growth. This can only be secured by a soil that is moderately productive and somewhat porous in its nature. On such a soil clover sod plowed under in the autumn or early spring and well fitted for corn will be in good condition for planting peach trees.

The trees may be planted 16, 18, or 20 ft. apart each way. If the land is strong 20 ft. is not too far, as the trees become more spreading and do not grow so high. With peach trees corn should be planted for two years with good cultivation. After this rye or buckwheat may be sowed and plowed under to good advantage. Cultivation should continue year after year as thoroughly as for a crop of corn. Peach trees will not bear neglect and give good results. During every dry season cultivation should be continued until the middle or last of August. After the trees begin to bear fruit, fertilisers may be used to good advantage on any soil, and on all light or thin soils they are a necessity. The tree that bears good fruit must be fed or it can not feed others. The best varieties for these isolated orchards are doubtless the old standard sorts that have been tested in all parts of the country. With these some new ones are coming to the front to make the list about as follows for continuous ripening:—Lewis' Seedling, Crane's Yellow, Early Barnard, Jacque's Rare Ripe, Hill's Chili and Smock. Some other varieties we think equally good, but this list is long enough for a beginner. Before planting a peach tree it should be trimmed to a whip and cut back to 3 or 4 feet in length. In trimming cut the limbs about one-half inch from the body of the tree so that buds hidden there may not be injured. During the summer after planting superfluous sprouts may be taken off or pinched back from time to time as they appear. In this way trees become shapely without severe pruning. The cultivation of a peach orchard is never complete, unless a thorough search for borers is made once or twice a year.

When the fruit sets full it should be thinned out by hand picking. This work can begin on the early varieties, when the fruit is about like your finger ends, and continued on the later varieties until all have been gone over. When the fruit sets uniformly over the tree it should be thinned out to 3 or 4 inches apart on every limb. Good results can not otherwise be secured.

When the crop is abundant great care must be exercised in marketing in order to secure good results. Peaches are always of better quality when ripened on the tree, and the nearer they can be brought to this condition before they are picked for market the more they will be appreciated by the purchaser. These small orchards, scattered over the country, as good locations offer, will commonly find their most remunerative market near at home. If the price is low in these markets at first it can be reached without middle men, and as the well ripened fruit is presented year after year it will be more and more desired by all who see it. For the home market peaches may remain on the tree until they are well ripened, but for long shipments no soft specimens should go into the package. Peaches should be handled about as carefully as you would handle eggs. Pouring them from one basket or box into another, as you would potatoes or even apples, is highly injurious, even if the injury is at first invisible. It is therefore desirable to pack them for market where they are grown. Pecks, halves and bushels may be used to advantage in this traffic according to the kind of market and quality of fruit you wish to put upon it.

With this brief outline we think no one will be at a loss to improve his opportunities for peach culture in a way that will be healthful to the digestive organs of his customers and remunerative to his own purse.

The net results of peach culture in any locality are variable to an extent that can not easily be defined. The estimate may be made by the tree, or the acre, or the orchard, and in any case be misleading as to the results during a series of years. If a tree five years old produces one bushel of marketable fruit, which would be a reasonable estimate, we still have the wide variation of prices that come from an abundant or short crop. The actual results therefore are similar to other branches of horticulture and husbandry; sometimes good and sometimes not so good, but where Nature serves the kindly turn of a congenial climate the careful and judicious cultivator of peaches seldom fails of a suitable reward for his labor. The most favored localities are not richly rewarded every year, but wherever the trees and buds can endure the climate there is always great encouragement to plant the trees and gather the fruit.

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