

SELECTING FRUIT FOR THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

The following circular has been sent out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and may give some useful hints for us also :

To call special attention to the great variety of fruits now procurable in the United States in quantities sufficient for the export trade, it is proposed to install and to maintain during the entire period of the Exposition, a representative exhibit of American fresh fruits. To accomplish this it will be necessary to provide a supply of choice specimens of the more durable fruits (such as winter apples, pears, citrus fruits, cranberries, nuts, etc.), of the crop of the present season (1899) for display at the opening of the Exposition and until specimens of the crop of the year 1900 are available. It is intended that all the more important fruit growing districts of the United States shall be represented in this exhibit and the active co-operation of growers and other persons interested is therefore solicited.

You are cordially invited to participate in this exhibit by contributing specimen fruits of the crop of 1899, grown either by yourself or others in your section, and to prepare to send choice specimens of such varieties as you may desire to exhibit of the crop of 1900 as they mature. The exhibit will be collective, but each contributor will receive the fullest credit for what he shows and the same consideration from the Jury of Awards that he would have if individual space were allotted him. Collections made by States, horticultural societies, boards of trade, shipping associations, railroad companies, etc., will have the same consideration as those from individuals.

KINDS OF FRUIT DESIRED.

1. As the kinds of fruit grown in the different parts of the country differ widely in number, season and character, it is suggested that for the opening exhibit (of the crop of 1899) only such varieties be chosen as possess special merit as market, dessert or culinary fruits in your section. Special attention should be given to standard varieties that are likely to keep well and be adapted to the requirements of the export trade.

Small lots of choice specimens of promising new or little known varieties are also desirable and may be included.

SELECTION OF SPECIMENS.

2. All specimens for exhibition should be selected early in the picking season, as it is of great importance that the specimens be not over-ripe when shipped. Symmetrical, well-grown specimens that are characteristic of the variety in the region, should be given preference to such as are over-grown or abnormal in other respects. Apples and pears should be picked as soon as the seeds turn

brown, even if they have not attained full color. All specimens must be hand-picked, preferably into padded baskets and must be free from bruises. They must have their stems attached and be free from insect injury or fungous disease, to be entitled to shipment to Paris. In no case should specimens be rubbed or polished.

QUANTITY.

3. To allow for loss in storage and in transit, a quantity of specimens of each variety should be provided of the crop of 1899. In general not less than one peck of a standard variety of apples or one-half peck of a standard variety of pear, should be sent by an exhibitor. In case of a promising new sort or a little known variety, as few as ten specimens may be forwarded, if in perfect condition. Where collections are made in localities that grow but few varieties and those on a large scale, at least one barrel of each variety should be provided, though the fruit may be in small lots furnished by different individual exhibitors.

CARE AND PACKING OF SPECIMENS.

4. After being picked the fruit should be handled with the utmost care and shielded from exposure to heat or frost. When the collection of specimens is completed, they should be double wrapped with paper and carefully packed in layers in clean, new apple barrels or boxes. The several lots in each package should be separated from each other by large sheets of paper and each should be labeled with the name of the variety, the locality, and the name and address of both grower and collector.

Labels and wrapping paper will be furnished to intending exhibitors without charge, upon application.

SHIPMENT.

5. Each package should be plainly marked with name of shipper and nature of contents, and forwarded by express or fast freight to such storage point as shall be hereafter designated. It is probable that exhibits of this character will be assembled at two or more storage centres, to be held until date of final shipment. In this case your exhibit will be ordered shipped to the most accessible point. Shipping labels, properly addressed, will be furnished.

In order to complete the necessary arrangements for the forwarding and reception of exhibits, it is important that you indicate at an early date the probable number of varieties and quantity of specimens that you will desire to contribute and the approximate date when they will be ready for shipment.

Photographic exhibits that illustrate characteristic features of the horticulture of your region are also desired, and circulars of information concerning such will be sent on application.