

that portion of the branch where most of the fruit is borne. The petals of the flowers have fallen. In this latter case it is impossible to thin the fruit by heading in the fruiting wood because a large percentage of its surface is lost with the consequent poor nourishment of the fruit. Where the tree has made poor growth and where the fruit buds are borne singly, pruning can be employed as a means of thinning the fruit only in so far as whole branches can be spared. With the triple bud formation, heading in may be resorted to, for fruit thinning purposes without fear of loss of leaf surface. The fruiting wood with its fruit buds in pairs with a branch bud between—that is the triple bud formation—may be cut back to even its last pair of fruit buds. The branch bud will continue the growth of the twig. Such a type of fruiting wood can only be developed by severe pruning. Some of these strong twigs will grow in the tops of poorly pruned trees, but to grow them in the centre of the tree the top must be pruned back severely. It is almost impossible to maintain a fruiting depth of more than four to six feet. The yield is gained by growing a peach tree fifteen feet in height when the bottom section of a foot is barren. It is better to keep the trees down to a height of ten feet with fruiting wood within three feet of the ground. A well pruned tree will grow thirty inches or more of new top each year, but if the tree is to continue productive, a very large portion of this must be removed each year. It is safe to say that in a well pruned peach tree from one-third to three-quarters of the one-year-old growth is removed each pruning season.

Figs. 9 and 10 show the two types of bud bearing wood in fruit. Fig. 9 is that of the triple bud formation, and shows that while it bears an abundance of blossoms very close together the fruit that sets has ample room and will develop normally, although some of them are very close and may require thinning. Fig. 10 shows the fruit well scattered from the single bud formation. The leaves of this branch had wilted before it was possible to photograph it.

## PLUMS

The different species of plums vary considerably in their fruiting habits. Only the Triflora and the Domestica groups are dealt with here. The fruit buds are borne mostly in groups on short spurs on two and three-year-old wood and singly on one-year-old wood. Most of the plums bear no true terminal buds and weak spurs are objectionable as frequently they bear no leaves and after producing their fruit die and become thorns. The Japanese or Triflora group bears its blossoms and fruit somewhat like the peach, a large percentage of their buds being borne singly on one-year-old wood. Occasionally the triple bud formation of the peach is found. Most of the fruit is, however, borne on short spurs on two and three-year-old wood. On older wood short spurs are found which bear buds in clusters. The Domestica group bear the fruit mostly on short spurs on two or three year-old wood and very few fruit buds may be found on one-year-old wood. The latter seldom set fruit. In pruning these two groups of plums the point to bear in mind is that most of the fruit is borne on wood ranging from one to four years old. Each fruit bud may produce four or five flowers. They bear no leaves or at best only rudimentary leaves. The larger number of buds indicates more vigorous growth. Generally speaking, the best types of fruiting wood are the spurs that are also vigorous enough to bear some branch buds. This type of fruiting wood is supplied with means of continuing its growth, and will develop fruit buds for another year.