

Fig. 23 shows a spur similar to Figs. 21 and 22 in fruit. In this case most of the leaves have been cut away and the buds may distinctly be seen. Notice the continuation of the spur in the long new wood at the right.

Figs. 24, 25 and 26 each shows a branch of a mature tree. It is obvious that such branches will need no pruning excepting for purposes of thinning the fruit. Here again every spur does not produce a cluster of blossoms. In some cases they may be seen to produce a small branch one or two inches long in the season; such a one for instance may be seen in Fig 23 above the fruit at the right. The fruitfulness of each spur is controlled by conditions of the previous season for if it could not then produce a fruit bud, none but leaves can arise the following season; in this season, however, it will make a very short growth of an inch or two and set good strong fruit buds.

Study Figs. 24 and 25 together. They are excellent illustrations of the general fruiting habit of the average mature but thrifty pear tree. Though the two illustrations are not from the same branch, Fig. 25 will illustrate where blossoms would have formed on Fig. 24.

CHERRIES

The cherries develop most of their fruit buds in the axils of leaves on short spurs on two and three-year-old wood. Some fruit buds are borne singly on one-year-old wood in the sour cherries, but very few buds are borne on wood over three years of age on either sweet or sour varieties. The spurs after bearing two or three crops usually succumb to adverse conditions of intense shade and poor air circulation. Only on well-pruned trees do they continue to bear good crops for several years, and even on such trees the great quantity of the fruit is borne on newer spurs on the two- and three-year-old wood.

Such a branch of the sweet cherry is shown in Fig. 27. The branch at the left was cut from the other for photographic purposes. This shows one, two and three-year-old wood. (A) shows the point of union between the one and two-year-old wood and (B) shows the point of union between the two and three-year-old wood. It will be noticed that the most of the fruit spurs are near the top of the two and three-year-old wood. This is not quite so pronounced as is seen in the case of one of the Duke variety shown in Fig. 28. In this case the second year's growth is shown in the cluster of spurs at D.

Figs. 29 and 30 are taken from a sour variety.

In Fig 29 the two centre branches have fruit spurs right to the top. This quite often happens. The whole strength of the branch has gone to the production of fruit buds at the tip instead of continuing the growth. This type of wood cannot be considered desirable, as no new wood has been made for the continuation of fruiting wood. Notice also some fruit spurs at the base of the one-year wood. Fig 30 is also a sour cherry branch showing the desirable type of wood. Wood of this type bears heavy annual crops and continues to produce fruiting wood regularly. The branch at the right was cut from the stub on the larger branch. Branches of this type are generally found only in the tops and over the surfaces of poorly pruned trees. They can only be developed throughout the entire tree by vigorous pruning or thinning out to allow growth to develop from the main branches. The sour varieties bear more fruit on the one-year-old wood than either the Duke or Sweet varieties. Consequently "heading-in" is very apt to remove a large number of fruit buds.