

Apple Packs and Packing

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WHILE a packed box of apples looks simple enough, it must fulfil certain requirements to be considered well put up. First, and most

is necessary with the end-on packs than with the side packs. This applies also to the height of the ends.

Regularity of pack is very important. When an irregularly packed box is opened at the side, it shows how the packer may start to pack a box in one size, and may change half-way through the box. Where the change is made apples are liable to be very much bruised, on which account this practice is to be condemned, and the application of the term "stacked pack" indicates the essential dishonesty of this proceeding, which is poor packing and worse morality.

ATTRACTIVENESS ESSENTIAL

The attractiveness of the finished pack is very essential. Our apples rely a great deal on their appearance for high-priced sale, and the finished pack should be attractive in the regularity of size, smoothness of the wrap, and the alignment of the fruit in the box.

The above points deal only with the mechanical operation of packing. Not less essential, but even more so, is the grading of the fruit to size and to color. Grading to size is usually done in British Columbia by the packer himself, and he should use every effort to make the box uniform throughout. A good packer must be conscientious, quick, and accurate. The ability to learn to pack fruit is natural, and a big percentage of people do not possess it. Packers are born, not made.

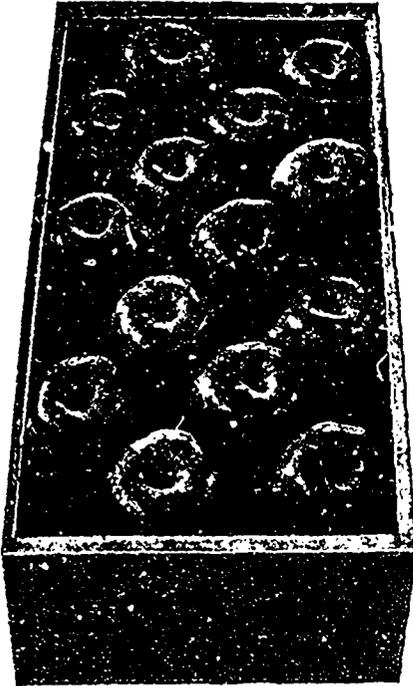
Our apple box, twenty by eleven by ten inches, is the result of many experi-

ments, some twenty or more sizes having been extensively used in California before the present sizes were finally adopted. The result is that practically all sizes and shapes of apples can be put into our boxes in the diagonal packs. In the very large sizes it is necessary to pack some apples on the square, three across and three deep in the box. The square packs, as well as the offset, we know from actual trial, are usually unnecessary. The buyers are beginning to be suspicious of packers who still insist on their use, and quite rightly so.

In the accompanying illustrations there are shown the principal diagonal packs. A study of these will show the beautiful regularity of the diagonal system. The flexibility of this pack to meet the requirements of apples of different sizes is learned only by experience, but as soon as a packer grasps the underlying principles of the diagonal pack there is no incentive to the use of the older and undesirable methods.

THE DIFFERENT PACKS

For the two-one diagonal pack the apples must be too large to fit in three in a straight line across the box. Start with two apples, one in each corner, then one between these, the two at sides, and so on. Second tier—Start with one in the centre of the end, over blank space, then two, and so on, covering the blank spaces. The third tier comes directly over the first, covering the blank spaces in the second tier. All two-one packs go on the side.



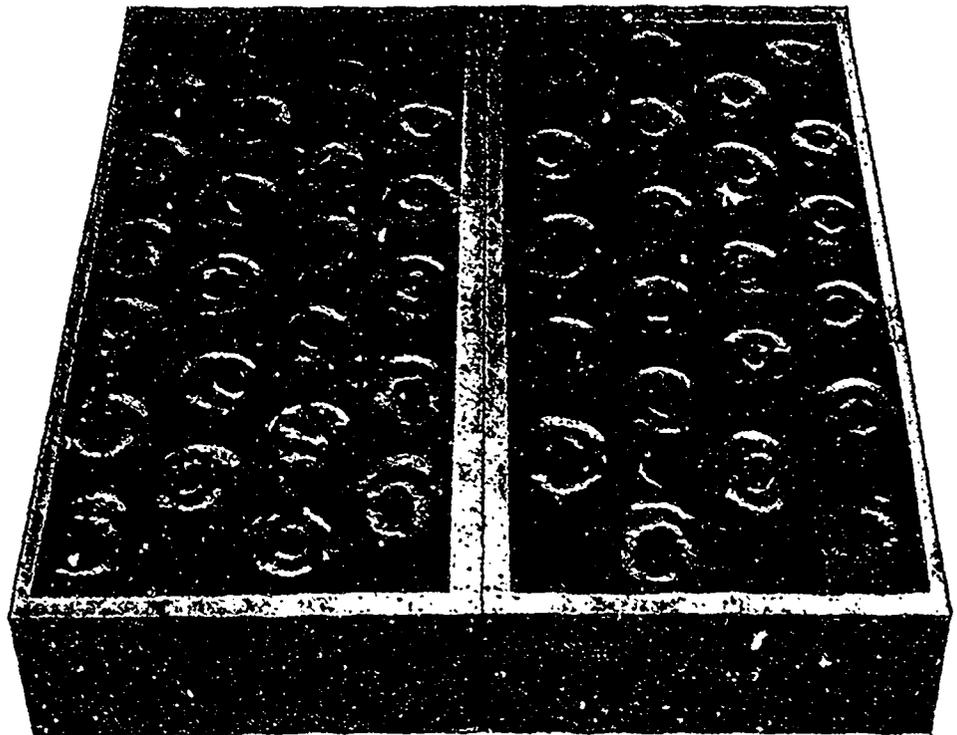
A Two-Two, Three-Four Pack—Fifty-six Apples in a Box.

important, the pack must be firm. There must be no room for the fruit to shift in any way. It is often possible to stand a box on end without the cover nailed without any of the apples falling out. This is usually impossible if each apple does not touch all those surrounding it in the proper way.

The bulge or swell is also important. The idea is that as the apples lose moisture and shrink, the cover which has been pressed down tightly over the bulge will contract and continue to hold the apples firmly. The bulge is secured by turning the apples when packing, so that the slightly longer diameter is vertical. Doing this becomes second nature by practise. It is sometimes necessary to turn the end apples on their side, in the end-on packs, in order to get this just right.

In order to create some pressure on the end rows of apples, the fruit at both ends should be from one-quarter to three-eighths of an inch above the top of the box. The cover presses this down that much quite easily without bruising, and the elasticity of the fruit will keep it tight for some considerable time.

There is at present some reaction against the bulges of one and one-half to two inches common a few years ago. Experience has shown that a bulge of one and one-quarter inches, counting both top and bottom, is sufficient. More



A Two-Two, Six-Six Pack—Ninety-six Apples to the Box.

A Two-Two, Five-Six Pack—Eighty-eight Apples to the Box.