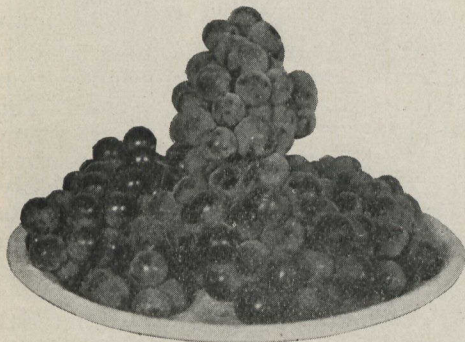


# Home-Grown Fruits for Christmas

H. S. Peart, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph

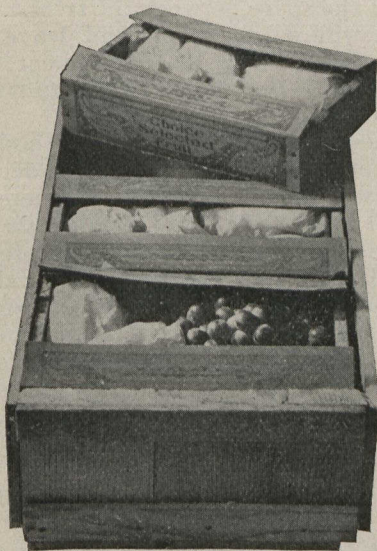
THE judicious selection of home-grown fruits suitable for the Christmas season is one which has received but little notice from purveyors. With the advent of Yuletide the busy housekeeper keeps a close



A Plate of Vergennes

watch for fruits suitable for the Christmas dinner, and for the production of artistic decorative effects. Tropical fruits are used extensively. Oranges, bananas and Malaga grapes seem to be the favorites. Let us pause for a moment and consider why home-grown fruits are not used more extensively. In the first place, the relatively low price of imported fruits as compared to home-grown ones at the Christmas season has had much to do with the ever-increasing use of perishable southern fruits. Secondly, native fruits are not offered by local salesmen because they have not yet learned how to handle our most delicate and high quality fruits.

What is more refreshing on Christ-



Grapes Packed for Storing

mas day than a well-matured, thoroughly ripened Anjou pear? Compare its buttery, melting properties with the insipid flesh of a green picked Ja-

maica banana, or the acid flesh of all but the very highest grade oranges, the kind reserved for those to whom money has little or no value. Everyone should have at least a basket of Anjous for Christmas day. Select well-matured specimens toward the end of October, and store them in a dark place in a cool cellar. If they do not ripen fast enough to be ready for Christmas, bring a few of them into a warmer room for a few days, and you will be surprised how quickly they will mellow and become ready for eating.

During the past few years the imports of Malaga grapes into Canada have continued to increase. This is well, from a fruit-consuming standpoint, but it is not in the best interests of either Canadian producer or con-

sumer. For those who have always used Malaga grapes, allow a suggestion. Order direct from a reliable grape grower a half dozen baskets of carefully selected home-grown grapes, specially packed so that no berries are broken from the stems, and packed with a sheet of paper between each layer of fruit, or what is better, each bunch carefully wrapped in Manilla paper. Boxes of choice fruit, as shown in the illustration, form a convenient method of storing. Set the baskets or boxes in a dark, cool cellar, and the fruit should compare favorably in quality with the choicest Malagas, and the cost will be less than one-half. Such varieties as Vergennes, Salem, and Lindley are the most satisfactory.

What place has our common apple for Christmas cheer? A few choice Fameuse, McIntosh, Swazie, and Northern Spys in an attractive setting of

mixed fruit gives us a glow of color and richness that is impossible to obtain from imported fruit, most of which is yellow and entirely unattractive in appearance. For purely decorative effect, the little Lady apple may be used on our Christmas trees and over our mantles. Its rosy cheek and bright yellow skin blends remarkably well with an evergreen background.

Among the native fruits that tend to further the success of the Christmas display, we must not omit the cranberry. What turkey is complete without cranberry sauce? Thousands of acres of these piquant berries are found growing wild in Canada.

A good collection of nuts should always be provided as a supplement to



Apples and Grapes Grown at Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

our Christmas cheer. Of these, Canada furnishes a great variety. The English walnut, so famous on account of its rich, sweet meat, has been introduced into British Columbia, and it may be only a matter of a few years until we may be producing it in sufficient quantity that the people of the home land will be sending to us for supplies. Filberts, hazels, black walnuts, shag-bark hickories, and butternuts are found in many parts of our great Dominion. Although scarcely so easily prepared as almonds and brazils, native nuts deserve a place on the Canadian Christmas menu.

A choice collection of home-grown fruit served for Christmas cheer adds greatly to the general decorative effect of the dinner table. It will be relished by young and old, and each should feel they are enjoying the fruits of our young and promising Canada.

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