

PEACHES

The fruit buds of the peach are normally axillary, and only very rarely is one found terminating a twig. They are borne always on one-year-old branches and short twigs the latter sometimes very much resembling tree fruit spurs. These buds open and produce a single flower but no leaves. They are borne single in the axils of single leaves or in pairs, one on either side of a leaf bud, the three buds being borne in the axils of as many leaves.

The first type of flowering is found in trees very lightly pruned or on weak shoots in well pruned trees with certain variations depending upon variety. Some of our best varieties bear a large percentage of their buds singly. Fig. 1 shows the two types of buds, the single buds on the smaller and weakest grown shoot and a



Fig. 3. Greensboro.



Fig. 4. Crawford.

majority in the three bud formation on the strongest shoots. The stronger type with the triple buds is most desirable. However, some of the best varieties bear their fruit buds mostly singly even on strong twigs, as a reference to Fig 2 shows.

In Fig. 2 most of the buds are leaf buds and the fruit buds may be noted as being more rounded at the apex and a little stouter throughout. In most varieties shoots that do not make a growth of over ten or twelve inches bear their fruit buds singly. The triple buds are found on the stronger one-year-old wood.

In reference to Fig. 3 it will be seen that the centre shoot which is the strongest grown, bears far more of its buds in the triple formation than the laterals which are shorter and weaker and have most of their buds borne singly. Fig. 4 shows a branch in which all buds are single and but few of which are fruit buds.