

THE KIEFFER PEAR.

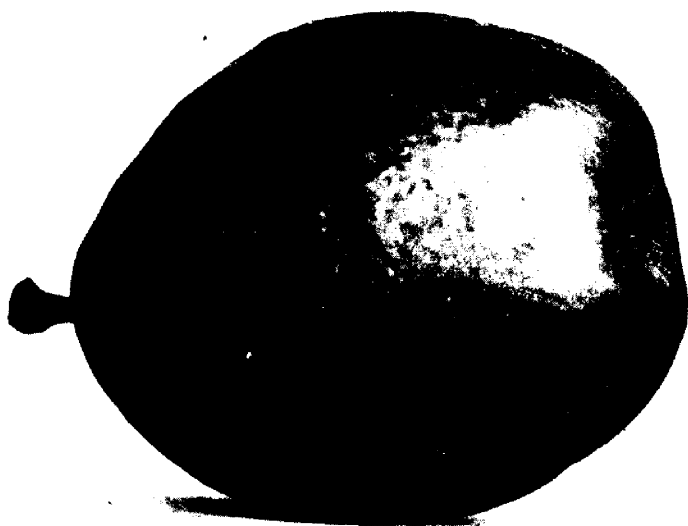


FIG. 1299. — KIEFFER PEAR.

SO much has been said and written, both for and against the Kieffer pear, that we hesitate to make any further statements until the question of real commercial value has been more definitely stated. That it is unequalled in productiveness, cannot be disputed. One tree two years planted, at Maplehurst, bore in 1896 two hundred pears, and a small orchard near by was, in 1897, literally breaking down with immense clusters.

It varies considerably with different soil and treatment, sometimes growing large and fine, with excellent color, and lacking both in size and appearance.

Gathered early and ripened indoors, one is surprised at the beautiful rich golden hue it takes on, which goes a long way to command a high price in any market. As a shipper it is unequalled, continues firm and hard in texture long after its appearance would

indicate ripeness. Like the Ben Davis apple it is showy on the table, but must be eaten under the most favorable conditions to be enjoyed.

Some sample cases of this variety have already been forwarded to Great Britain, and brought about \$3.00 per bushel case, and yet the salesman discouraged their shipment because he thought the pear could not be sold a second time to the same persons.

The variety originated with Peter Kieffer, near Philadelphia, and was a supposed cross between the Chinese Sand and the Anjou. It matures in October and November.

Meehan's Monthly takes rather a favorable view of this variety as a market pear, as is shown by the following extract :

The Kieffer pear, an accidental seedling found by an humble French gardener residing in Germantown years ago, has marked a new era in pear cul-