

and if a tight package can be obtained, it is not acceptable to the customers.

PACKING IN TIERS

One great advantage of boxes is that close distinctions in size and color are easily made. Customers then can secure exactly what they wish with reference to these two qualities. The number of apples in a box can be determined almost instantly by the style of the pack, but this number should always be placed on the end of the box by the packer, when he completes his work. Apples, even of the same variety and upon the same tree, vary so much in shape that it is quite possible to get an almost endless variety of packs, all fairly regular. Some practised packers claim to distinguish sixty different styles of pack. This is quite possible, if we count not only the distinct varieties of pack, but also combinations of these varieties in the different layers of the box. It is not necessary, however, to be familiar with so many packs in order to be successful as a box packer. Familiarity with half a dozen or more will enable an intelligent person to pack successfully all common varieties, and, having learned to use these half-dozen styles of pack, the packer will have little difficulty in combining the features in these for the purpose of packing any odd size or shape that may present itself. In a general way, the size of the apples is indicated by the number of tiers or layers in the box. The box is supposed to be open, so that it is eleven inches wide and ten inches deep. If, then, three layers or tiers of apples will fill the box properly, that sized apple is spoken of as a three-tier apple. In the same way, if five layers or tiers fill the box, the size is said to be five-tier. The three-tier apples would be the largest that would be packed, such as the Alexander or overgrown specimens of the King and Spy. These may be so large that only forty-five will go in a box. It is possible to get a three-tier apple with sixty-three in a box. In the same way, a four tier apple usually contains ninety-six specimens, but it may contain as high as 112.

If the apples of one layer are placed in the spaces between the apples of the one below, there would be, say, four layers of apples intermediate in size between those that would fill the box in three layers or in four layers if packed directly over each other or straight pack. Such intermediate size would be styled a three and a half tier size. Similarly, the intermediate size between a straight four-tier and a straight five-tier would be spoken of as a four and a half tier. A packer soon learns to associate the number of specimens in a box with the particular pack which he adopts.

From the smallest Fameuse that should be packed, to the largest Kings

or Alexanders, there are between thirty-five and forty different sizes, each of which requires a different style of pack. But let the beginner in box packing take heart. These different styles of packing are really only modifications of two general types. The first is called the "straight" pack, where every apple but those in the first layer is directly over another. The second is called the "diagonal" pack, in which no apple is directly over any other which it touches. Usually, the apples in the alternate layers are directly over each other, but never in the contiguous layers.

The "straight" pack is modified by the number of layers in the box. When the box contains three, four or five

middle. The second would then be made with two apples, the third with three, and so on, until the tier is completed. The second layer would be commenced with two apples and alternated with three, as in the first layer. The first and third and fifth layers, and second and fourth, would be the same, and directly over each other. By commencing this pack with two apples, instead of three, the box will contain two apples less. With larger apples, the two-two pack is used. This is begun by placing an apple in one corner of the box and then dividing the remaining space evenly with another apple. Into these spaces are pressed two apples forming the next row. This is continued till the



A Busy Scene During the Peach Season—Shipping from Beamsville, Ontario

layers, each apple directly over another, the pack is said to be straight, three, four or five tier respectively. Each straight pack is again modified by placing the stem up or down, towards the side of the box or towards the ends. Even so slight a change as placing the stem one way in one layer, and the opposite way in the next, will sometimes make the difference between a tight and a slack pack. As there can thus be four or more modifications of each of the three packs, twelve or fifteen classes of apples, differing in size or shape or both, can be packed in this way.

The diagonal packs may be modified even more freely. A modification of the diagonal pack in common use is called the "offset." Place three apples touching each other, but leaving a space about the width of half an apple between one side of the box and the last apple. The next row of three would be placed so as to leave the space on the opposite side. A very useful diagonal pack is made by placing three apples in the first row, one in each corner and one in the

box is filled. Four layers will fill the box, the first being directly over the third, and the second over the fourth.

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Marketing Peaches

Picking and packing peaches are matters that require the personal attention of the grower. These cannot be trusted to hired labor without strict oversight. The peach should be picked and packed as carefully as an orange; should never be poured from basket to basket; should never be bruised in handling; should be carefully assorted by grades, and put up for market with an eye to attractiveness. It is not strictly proper, however, to put red netting over green fruit.

There is just the right time to pick for market, and this is something to be learned by experience. A day too early, and the peaches are green; a day too late and they are over-ripe and will be soft and bruised and unsaleable before they reach the consumer. No fruit requires greater expedition and better judgment in picking and marketing.