

The above list includes areas with a total of at least 1,000 trees. The total for Ontario, according to the 1911 census was as follows:—

Non-bearing.....	890,455
Bearing.....	794,192
Total.....	1,684,647 Trees

County lines cannot, however, be said to mark the commercial areas. The industry is well established in but five sections of the Province: Niagara District, Leamington District, Forest District, Cedar Springs District, and Sparta District. A number of other sections are experimenting with varying degrees of success and give promise of development. The county lists show the Niagara District has approximately 1,250,000 trees; Leamington District, 130,000 trees; Forest District, 100,000 trees; Cedar Springs District, 60,000; Sparta District, 50,000.

Climate, soils and conditions vary somewhat in these districts, but in many respects they are very similar.

Soil conditions are very similar, in that the most successful orchards are on land that is warm and dry and in which the root systems of the trees have an opportunity to spread.

Atmospheric conditions are very similar. Either the district is influenced directly by a large body of water or the trees are on a gravel ridge some distance from the water, so high that they are directly influenced by air currents.

LIMITING FACTORS.—Many trees are planted outside of and beyond the commercial districts, and consequently a few words on the factors limiting successful production may not be amiss.

The native home of the peach is almost sub-tropical, but many years of growth under very varied conditions have gradually fitted it for severer climates. Undoubtedly we can reasonably expect that varieties will be developed that will withstand severer climates and more adverse conditions than our present varieties. At present, however, a minimum of 20 degrees F., not continued for more than a few hours is considered the limit of hardiness of wood and bud. The tree must be well prepared, or it will not stand even this extreme.

A soil either too wet or too dry is not the most protective to the roots. A wet soil freezes deeply and is conducive to sappiness in the new growth, consequently conducive to weakness. A soil too dry cannot readily replace the evaporation loss from the twigs, and a shrivelling is noted which leads to loss.

A soil too rich in nitrogen also is conducive to a sappy growth which will not stand the extremes of cold.

Generally speaking, the medium rich, deep, warm, well-drained soils produce the hardiest trees. A disregard of any one of these factors is fatal. The smaller, slower growing varieties are hardiest, and the limit of 20 degrees F. below zero may be set as a mark even under the most ideal conditions.

VARIETIES.

The selection of the best varieties is one of the first and most important steps in successful peach culture. In some cases, varieties entirely unsuited to the demands of the market have been planted. White-fleshed peaches cannot be said to be in demand, but a few varieties are mentioned for home use and early market.