

ORCHARD GLEANINGS

THINNING IMPROVES QUALITY OF PEACHES

When the set of fruit is heavy and excessive a proper thinning directly after the "June drop" is an important factor in good orchard practice, and directly affects the grade and quantity of fruit shipped. The grower's aim, however, is for the tree to produce the largest possible amount of fruit that can attain the highest commercial standard.

The development of a great number of seeds is a tree-exhausting process. This is opposed to the development of large fruits. To meet this end, the grower must thin the fruit, says A. E. Schilleter, extension horticulturist at Clemson college.

Perhaps no operation in the production of peaches requires keener judgment than thinning the fruit. A common practice very generally applicable, is to thin so that the fruits will not be nearer together than three to four inches after thinning. But the strength of the tree, the fertility of the soil, and especially the soil moisture, together with the size of the crop (or, in other words, the number of fruits allowed to develop on the tree), govern very largely the size and perfection of the individual fruits.

Obviously, a vigorous tree growing under favorable conditions as to moisture, plant food, etc., can develop a larger number of fruits to good size than can a weak tree, or even the same tree when there is a marked deficiency either in the supply of moisture or of plant food. While thinning may cost a relatively large amount per tree, actually more high-grade fruit is produced, as a rule, on a tree which bears only a moderate crop than on one which is heavily overloaded, and the average fruit on the tree with a moderate crop is of better grade than the best fruit of an overloaded tree.

As the development of the pits is an exhaustive process, limiting the number of fruits tends to conserve the vitality of the tree. A large percentage of the flesh of the peach is water; hence, if the soil is well supplied with moisture the development of the edible portion of the fruit makes a relatively light demand on the strength of the tree.

Control of Strawberry

Pests Is Not Difficult

The strawberry is so universally grown that it is only natural to expect that there would be quite a number of important insects and diseases attacking this crop. However, they are not so serious but that they respond to a little commonsense treatment. A few precautions go much further than a large amount of cure in the case of the strawberry pests. The first thing to always remember is to get good plants. These should be strong plants, with good vigor, and disease and insect free. A good price paid for such plants is money well invested. Many growers make the mistake of going to old worn-out beds that are badly infested with insects and diseases, and take from them weak, devitalized plants and they hope to start in the strawberry business with such a stock. It cannot be done. It is only with a vigorous, strong plant which will pass inspection that one can hope to get a reasonable start.

The second step which will go a long ways in controlling the pests of the strawberry is to choose the land upon which they are to be planted with care. In the first place, the strawberry is a crop which should always be rotated. Never plant new plants where an old bed has been growing but grow some other crops for three or four years and plant your strawberries somewhere else. Neither is it wise to plant strawberries immediately following the plowing up of a soil because the ground is filled with insects which will attack the strawberry plants and will destroy them. It would be better to grow some food crop, like potatoes or corn, for a year before planting the strawberry.

Horticulture Hints

Pruning should be done before the sap rises.

Some spray plums in late July or early August, using four quarts of lime-sulphur to fifty gallons of water.

Put on the first application of bordeaux on grapes as soon as the leaves are out.

Prepare stock solutions of blue-stone and stone lime for bordeaux sprays. It saves time.

The first step in making a profitable orchard is the proper care in planting and the right spacing of the trees. Too many trees crowded into a small space is not a saving because they will not do well.

It will prove all right to place a small amount of nitrogen fertilizer on young trees as late as the middle of June.

Look out for cutworms in the garden; paper slips or poison bait will stop injury.

Protection of California fruit orchards against frost has become almost an exact science because of the accurate temperature predictions by the weather bureau.

A telephone company on the Tex-

as coast, during 24 hours after giving warning of an approaching hurricane, made more than 100,000 connections for weather information.

Goats are sometimes driven over the plowed fields in the Nile Valley to help break the clods.

OLD—But True

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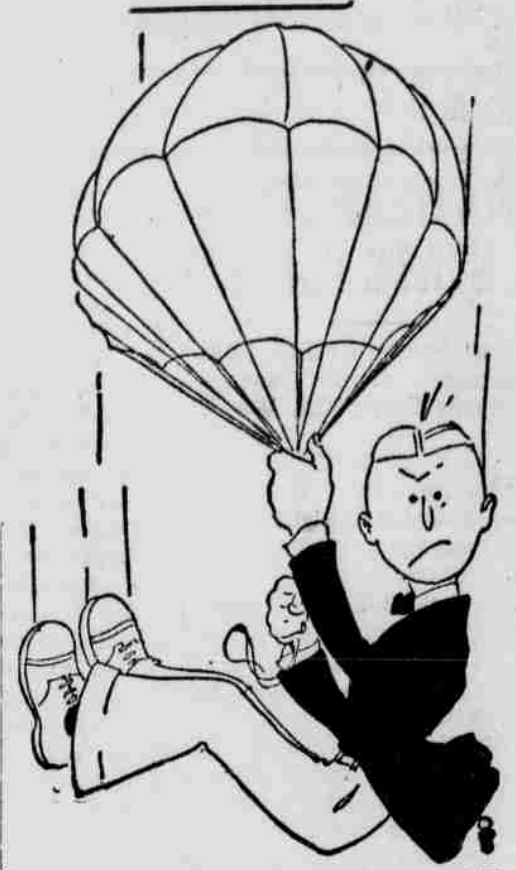
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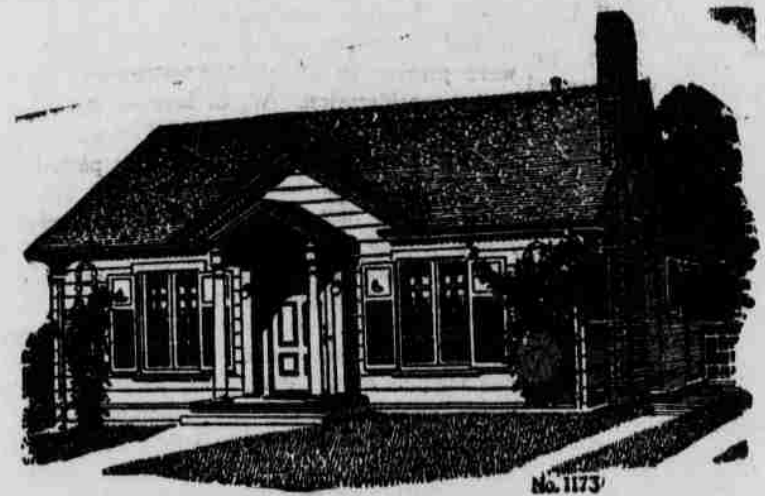
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