# POLLINATION OF TREE FRUITS AND NUTS

By John C. Snyder

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This is one of those especially well-prepared bulletins which is a joy to find and read. The author has covered the subject in a thorough and readable manner. Seven pictures have been used to illustrate various factors discussed in the text.

### Placement of Pollinizing Varieties

The introductory material stresses the importance of pollination and the spacing and use of pollinizing varieties. The practices of planting entire rows of pollinizers or single trees (every third tree in every third row) are discussed. In solid blocks of apples one pollinizer branch can be grafted on each tree with good results. Care should be taken to avoid removing such branches during the pruning operation. Entire trees of the pollinizing variety are usually more satisfactory.

### Insects as Pollen Carriers

The role of insects in pollination is discussed. Pollen of most fruit flowers is carried by insects of which bees are the most important. In areas where weather conditions are favorable for pollination, one colony to two acres may be adequate. In particularly unfavorable seasons two colonies per acre may be required.

The pollen of filberts and walnuts is carried primarily by the wind.

### Commercial Hand Pollination Of Apples

Considerable space is given to a discussion of commercial hand pollination of apples. The author describes the methods used in collecting the pollen and its removal from the flowers. The curing, handling, and methods of applying pollen are also covered.

The application of pollen by hand should be considered as a temporary expedient in most cases and should be practical only until natural sources and distribution of pollen can be established.

The use of bouquets of flowers in the orchard has given satisfactory results when weather conditions permit insect activity.

### Selection of Varieties as Pollinizers

In this section of the bulletin the author discusses the pollination needs of the more important fruit crops.

Apples and pears need to be planted with adequate provision for cross pollination. The quantity and viability of the pollen which is produced, and the blooming date of the different varieties must be considered.

The important varieties of peaches, apricots, and sour cherries are generally self-fruitful.

Plum varieties vary from being self-fruitful to self-unfruitful. The need for pollination must be given careful consideration if satisfactory yields are to be secured.

The pollination needs of filberts and walnuts are discussed briefly. — W.P.J.