

profitable. Adequate pruning provides a large proportion of well colored, attractive, high-quality fruit.

Proper Fertilization Promotes Good Quality

The use of enough fertilizer to insure vigorous tree growth and an abundant leaf surface is a necessary prerequisite to fruit quality. The kind and amount of fertilizer to use must be determined for each locality and, in many cases, for individual orchards. Nitrogen is the element most often lacking, but it is quite probable that in many cases other elements, especially phosphorus and potassium will also be needed. The determination of the available nutrients in the soil should be used as the basis for the fertilizer program.

Growers frequently express concern about the effects of nitrogen on quality. The general statement can be made that the use of nitrogen in quantities adequate to promote vigorous growth and high yields will have no significant deleterious effect on quality. Nitrogen prolongs fruit growth and, consequently, delays maturity; but quality is not impaired if the fruit is allowed to mature before harvest. Although nitrogen reduces red color development in apples the reduction is significant only when unnecessarily large quantities of this fertilizer material are used.

Heavy Crops Should Be Thinned

There is a universal tendency for fruit plants, particularly tree fruits, to set excessively in some seasons. To

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND A. P. S. MEETING AT YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

As announced in the previous issue of Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest, the annual meeting of the American Pomological Society will be held at Yakima, Washington, December 6, 7, and 8, 1948. This convention will be in conjunction with the winter meeting of the Washington State Horticultural Society.

The final details of a well rounded, interesting, and instructive program are now being worked out. Some of the outstanding features will be discussed in the next issue of Fruit Varieties which will be mailed to members and subscribers about November 1.

All persons interested in attending this meeting are urged to contact W. D. Armstrong, Secretary - Treasurer, American Pomological Society, Princeton, Kentucky, so that plans may be made to travel to Yakima as a group.

achieve fruit quality under such conditions it is necessary to remove enough fruits by thinning to leave only the amount that will develop to maturity with high quality. Thinning by the use of chemical sprays at or near bloom is a very promising method but must still be considered in the experimental stage as far as universal recommendations are concerned. The alternative is hand thin-