

grown for the studies of fire blight. The building program of the past ten years has eliminated the nursery in which they were growing, but they were left standing and are now in the rear lawn of a sorority house, not far from a recently constructed college building. Hundreds of trees have been propagated from this original tree, and the extensive cutting of scion wood has probably dwarfed the tree to some degree, as it is now considerably smaller than its companion tree. It has never developed fire blight, even during the years when blight has been very serious and trees of susceptible varieties have been killed to the ground.

The fruits of the Richard Peters pear, as grown at the Pennsylvania State College, usually run small in size, being a little larger than those of Seckel. They have long necks, reminding one of the shape of the Bosc pear. They are of reasonably good quality, though they could not be considered as high-quality pears. However, they are much better than the fruits of Kieffer and much more tender and less grainy. Like most varieties of pears in central Pennsylvania, the Richard Peters is somewhat erratic in its bearing habits, but it usually bears some fruit every year. Pollination studies show that it is self-sterile, that it needs cross-pollination to produce fruit. This pear may have value as a parent with Bosc and other pears in breeding projects which are designed to produce blight-resistant pears of high quality.

The Richard Peters pear has distinct merit in regions where blight-suscepti-



The original Richard Peters pear tree is now twenty-three years old. It stands in a lawn behind a sorority house on the campus of the Pennsylvania State College and is surrounded by several seedling pear trees of the same age.

ble pears cannot be grown. Hundreds of trees and large quantities of scion wood have already been distributed to experiment stations and to interested fruit growers, chiefly in the South and in the West.

PLUM VARIETIES

The Stanley plum, of the prune type, is the best of a number of varieties tested recently. The fruit is large, dark blue, and of excellent quality, and the tree is very productive.

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