POLLINATION OF FRUIT TREES

By Richard Wellington, 1947

Cornell Ext. Bul. 720. 8 p.

All the varieties of tree fruits grown commercially in New York require pollination of the flowers to set fruit. The information contained in this bulletin is very useful for fruit growers who are planning to expand their orchard plantings. A careful study of the problem at the beginning may save many hundreds of dollars in later years.

Factors Influencing Pollination

If pollination is to be affected there must be suitable varieties in the orchard area, an adequate supply of pollinizing insects, and at least a few hours of warm sunny weather so that insect flight is encouraged. Time of bloom is also an important factor in the pollination of fruit trees.

In commercial orchards, solid rows of the pollinizing variety are usually planted. The minimum number of trees to supply pollen is every third tree in every third row. In a solid block of one variety which is self-unfruitful, bouquets of blooms may be used until the desired pollinating varieties can be introduced by topworking or planting.

Pollination of Specific Fruits

Apples are for the most part not sufficiently self-fruitful to give a good commercial crop if the orchard contains only one variety. Therefore, provision should be made for cross-pollination. A fine table is presented in this bulletin recording the time of blooming, tendency to biennial bearing, lateness of commencing to bear, and self-fruitfulness of 47 varieties of apples.

At least two varieties of **pears** should be planted to provide for cross pollination.

All **sweet cherries** are self-unfruitful, although they produce good pollen. At least two and preferably three varieties should be included in the orchard to provide for cross-pollination.

Most of the commonly grown **sour cherries** are self-fruitful and no provision needs to be made for pollination.

Some European plums are self-fruitful, others are not. The grower should check his varieties before the planting is established to be sure a suitable selection is made to insure a fruitful orchard.

Peaches and nectarines are largely self-fruitful although there are a few exceptions to this rule. —W. P. J.

RED RASPBERRY VARIETIES IN MINNESOTA

By J. D. Winter, 1947
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Newburgh red raspberry should rank first as a market variety in the Duluth region. One very convincing argument is that most growers of this variety who were in commercial production 8 to 10 years ago are still in production, while most plantings and replantings of other varieties including Latham have failed to survive over this period of years.

Madawaska appears to be fine for the home garden. It has been very productive and free from mosaic disease. The fruit of Madawaska is of excellent size and flavor, and is fine for freezing and canning. It is of doubtful value as a shipping variety.

Taylor rates second best among the folks who buy my berries.

Willamette produces too many double berries to suit me, although the fruit is very large.

Rideau is a nice berry but not productive enough with me.

Ottawa seems remarkably hardy, even hardier than Latham, but it is too subject to mosaic to be desirable even though it has been quite productive.

Trent is extremely early and a fairly nice berry but appears inferior to the extra early Minn. No. 321.

Although Tahoma has done rather well for me and is of high quality for freezing and canning, it is very susceptible to anthracnose and probably cannot be recommended for planting.

Milton produce a large, dry, firm berry but needs more testing under these climatic conditions before it can be recommended. —W.P.J.