

Why Gamble With Poor Varieties?

A recent bulletin from an experiment station in an important fruit growing state contained the following statement: "Although not popular because of their extreme susceptibility to brown rot and small fruit size, nectarines have high eating quality and might be included in home plantings."

How long can we expect the backyard gardener to be misled by such statements? If the commercial grower cannot control brown rot with his expensive equipment and well-trained operators, how can we expect the home owner to cope with this problem? Let's be honest! Let's be practical! It is not good advice to suggest that the average backyard gardener plant varieties which are difficult to grow because of extreme susceptibility to diseases, insects, or other hazards.

It has been demonstrated repeatedly that the most profitable commercial orchards are those which contain dependable productive varieties. Success in the home garden is in most cases based on the same type of good judgment.

As we have stated before, sentiment and wishful thinking should be divorced from this matter of variety selection. Let's not gamble on variety weaknesses! Let's base our fruit production hopes on a critical analysis of varieties which have demonstrated their ability to produce good crops year after year with a minimum of serious problems such as the brown rot susceptibility cited above.

