

Editorial Notes

Pears—Who Has Beierschmitt?

If its name were a little easier to spell perhaps we'd hear more about the Beierschmitt pear (*alias Beirsmitt, alias Beirschmitt, alias Brierschmitt, alias Beierschmidt, etc.*) Two contributors to our Spring, 1950 issue, Palmer of Maine and Buchanan of Nova Scotia, both give Beierschmitt a high rating. What other growers between there and its home state of Iowa can give us a report on the performance of Beierschmitt?

We need more reports on other pears of recent introduction. In the Southeast, for example, there are at least three new varieties of commercial promise. The Orient is a Tennessee Experiment Station introduction, though it was bred by the late Walter Van Fleet of U.S.D.A. As a result of Tennessee recommendations, it is being widely planted. The Baldwin pear from near Mobile is perhaps better than Orient in southern Alabama and shows promise in all the Gulf States and South Carolina, but in the Tennessee Valley and similar climates it tends toward blossoming too early for safety. (It precedes Kieffer and Le Conte at Nashville, whereas the peak of blossoming on Orient is slightly after Kieffer.) The Richard Peters pear from Pennsylvania State College is well liked at the Arkansas and Georgia Experiment Stations, and nurseries as far south as central Texas are propagating it.

Lodi vs. Yellow Transparent

"The Lodi proved its immense superiority to Yellow Transparent as a market variety, going to market in 1949 at from \$4.00 down to \$2.75 when the choice Transparent could not make \$2.50, according to H. L. Drake in the *News Letter* of the Kansas State Horticultural Society. Have any growers tested this variety in Minnesota?", queries J. D. Winter in *Minnesota Horticulturist*. The editor of *F. V. & H. D.* can add that a similar price differential between the two varieties has prevailed in Tennessee in the past several years. The Lodi's principal commercial advantages in the southern early apple areas are its larger, more uniform size at the time of first picking, and less tendency (so far) toward biennial bearing. The trees also promise to have a longer commercial life expectancy. Like Transparent, one of its parents, the Lodi tends to set in clusters; it is about as susceptible to fire blight, and more so to scab. Apples with better eating quality, red color, or both, are coming along in some of the station breeding projects, but—as of now—Lodi seems the most probable replacement for Yellow Transparent in its season.

A Canadian note on the Close apple appears on another page. We'd like to hear from our correspondents on their experiences with these and other early varieties.