

quality is about the same as that of Howard. Erie produces heavy crops and makes enough runners for a good fruiting row. It is primarily a market variety.

Essex is for the home gardener. It ripens about five days before Howard and bears moderate crops of medium sized, rather soft, bright red attractive berries of excellent quality. Its small size and tender skin render it unsuitable for the general market.

Growers should test these new varieties in a small way until their usefulness has been determined. Usually two or three crops should be observed before final judgment is passed upon a new variety.

The new bramble varieties were introduced by the New York Fruit Testing Cooperative Association at Geneva. September raspberry and Hedrick blackberry are also available from several commercial nurseries. Amber and Bailey are in limited supply and plants will be scarce for several years.

The strawberries are available from a few growers who cooperated with the Station in testing them. The names of suppliers of the new strawberries and brambles may be had from the Division of Pomology of the Experiment Station at Geneva.—Farm Research, N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.



## *Peach, Pear and Plum Variety Trends in Michigan*

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Elberta is Michigan's leading peach variety. Currently 45 percent of Michigan's bearing peach trees are of that variety. During the past seven years there has been practically no change in the percent of all bearing peach trees reported to be Elberta. Halehaven is the second most important variety and has been steadily increasing in im-

portance. Many growers and other informed trade people feel that possibly the rate of increase of Halehaven will gradually lessen in the next ten years. If this should happen it could mean that the Halehaven variety would stabilize itself at about one-third of Michigan's bearing peach trees. Approximately three-fourths of the State's bear-

ing peach trees are of these two varieties. Redhaven is one of the newest varieties and already ranks third in the number of bearing trees in the State. South Haven and Rochester have decreased in importance so that on a State basis they are no longer commercially important. Fertile Hale, a minor variety in the State, is showing little change in rank. J. H. Hale is gradually becoming less important, however, it continues to be a common variety. Probably the most prominent varieties under "other" are Golden Jubilee and Ambergem.

Bartlett and less of other varieties could possibly continue until other varieties will be planted only as pollenizers for Bartlett.

Stanley Prune is now Michigan's leading plum variety. If it continues increasing in importance among the plum varieties as it has the last seven years, one-half of the State's 1955 bearing plum trees would be this one variety. Damson plum is only gaining slightly in importance. Currently about one-half the State's bearing plum trees are Stanley Prune and Damson. Italian Prune, Grand Duke and Monarch

Estimated Total Bearing Trees of Peaches, Plums, and Pears  
(by Varieties) as Reported in the 1950 Census (Preliminary)

Thousand Bearing Trees		
PEACHES	PLUMS	PEARS
Elberta ----- 1,234	Stanley Prune ---- 86	Bartlett ----- 433
Halehaven ----- 734	Damson ----- 80	Kieffer ----- 96
Redhaven ----- 154	Italian Prune ---- 25	Others ----- 90
J. H. Hale ----- 84	Grand Duke ----- 19	
Fertile Hale ----- 84	German Prune ---- 15	
Rochester ----- 57	Monarch ----- 13	
South Haven ----- 46	Green Gage ----- 3	
Others ----- 307	Others ----- 39	
State Total ----- 2,700	State Total ----- 280	State Total ----- 619

Bartlett is Michigan's chief pear variety, with nearly three-fourths of all bearing trees. It has increased in the percent of all bearing pear trees at the expense of all other varieties. This trend toward more

are continuing to be important as minor varieties, while German Prune and Green Gage could very soon, if not now, be classed as unimportant commercially.

