

## The El Dorado Pear in Oregon

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The El Dorado pear, which is not well known outside of California and Oregon, originated about 1925 as a chance seedling in a fence row near Placerville, California. Later, Mr. J. A. Winkelman propagated it at Medford, Oregon, in 1948. The El Dorado has not gained prominence in California but is being planted commercially in Oregon. It is distinctly a winter-type pear which fits well into the late marketing season, and is harvested just after Anjou, usually with Comice. The fruit is distinctly pyriform in shape, often resembling the Bartlett variety, clear skinned, with a moderately long, flexible stem. The fruit sizes as well as Bartlett, and the flesh is essentially free of stone cells. The skin attains an attractive pale yellow color when ripened.

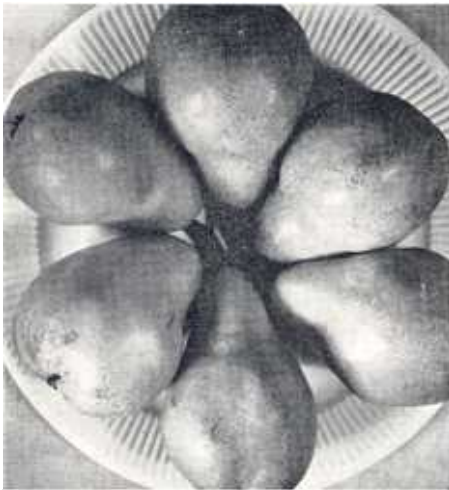


Fig. 1. Fruits of the El Dorado pear, a promising winter pear that resembles Bartlett.

In preliminary storage tests, it has not developed scald or core breakdown. The fruits have stored well at 30° F until April and May. Unlike Packham's Triumph, it has not been susceptible to scab, and blight or storage scald. Taste tests indicate that it is equal or superior to Comice in dessert quality. The fruits are moderately free of blemishes and russetting, and resist mechanical injury as well as Bartlett and Anjou. The shelf life is as long as that of Anjou, and longer than Comice or Packham's Triumph. The fruit also resists pressure and friction bruising.

El Dorado is a non-patented variety, and limited amounts of scionwood are available. This variety is likely to be grown more widely in the future, in preference to Anjou and Packham's Triumph, because of its high quality, attractive appearance and late-keeping characteristics. The fruit surface is smooth in contrast to the rough or bumpy appearance of Packham's Triumph. The fruit is more oblong-pyriform and less ovate or acute-pyriform in shape than is typical of Packham's Triumph fruit when grown in Oregon. Tests show, however, that it is not a satisfactory canning variety.



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