

FRUITS FOR THE HOME GARDEN

By U. P. Hedrick, 1944

171 pages Oxford Univ. Press

Although this book was written by a well-known horticulturist and contains a considerable quantity of useful information, it would be quite disappointing to most critical fruit growers and home gardeners. The information is largely of a very general nature and in some cases actually appears to be erroneous. On the other hand, in some places the recommendations such as the date for budding fruit trees are too specific and the reasons for performing the operation at the suggested time are not well explained.

The first chapter contains a general discussion on the selection of the soil and site, and the selection of varieties. This introductory material is followed by six chapters on orchard culture and management under the titles propagating fruits, planting plans, the first year, care of a fruit garden, the art of pruning, and

control of orchard pests. The last nine chapters discuss the following specific fruit crops: apple, pear, peach, plum, cherry, grape, bush fruits, bramble fruits and strawberry.

The information for the most part is useful and interesting but adds nothing which is particularly new in fruit growing. Such a statement as "Most apple trees, however, are in their prime when from 40 to 60 years old . . ." is hardly in keeping with current horticultural thinking.

The variety descriptions appear to be too glowing and encourage the planting of more varieties than could possibly be handled in the average home fruit garden. Some very important new as well as old varieties were omitted from the variety lists.

This book may be suggested as "light-reading" by home gardeners but is hardly complete enough to serve as a thorough guide in fruit growing.—W.P.J.

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