

Virus Diseases of Apples and Pears.

1964. Edited by A. F. Posnette. Tech. Commun. No. 30, Commonwealth Bureau Hort. & Plantation Crops. 141 pages. \$5.00. (Send to Commonwealth Agr. Bureau, Central Sales, Farnham House, Farnham Royal, Nr. Slough, Bucks, Eng.)

Truly a book of international scope and interest, this volume on apple and pear viruses includes among its contributors pathologists from England, Denmark, Switzerland, Canada, the Netherlands, Italy and the U. S. It is unique in that it is both scholarly and practical. Because it is a loose-leaf, ring type book, its pages can easily be removed, when the need arises to hold up one of its excellent colored or black-and-white photographic plates next to a suspected plant for comparison.

We are indebted to the editor and contributors for providing pomologists, pathologists and growers with an extremely helpful reference in this very difficult area of viruses. The text material is presented very concisely, along with excellent photographic plates. Each virus is discussed individually, including the various common names by which it is known, its geographic distribution, descriptions of the various symptoms in great detail, modes of transmission of the disease, remarks dealing with the effects on yield, methods of control and prevention, and an excellent list of references.

A number of the important quince viruses are described, in addition to those for the apple and pear. The editor himself presents material on the subject of virus control in general, toward the end of the book. Also, of special interest, is a list of indicator varieties for pome fruit viruses, revised in 1962 by the European Committee for Cooperation in Fruit Tree Virus Research. —G. M. Kessler

Approved Practices in Fruit Production.

1964. By A. H. Scheer and E. M. Juergensen. Interstate Press. 504 pages. \$5.00.

This is a practical book designed for the high school student of vocational agriculture and for the fruit grower. It will probably prove most useful in California. Their emphasis upon practices and crops of special importance in California would indicate that this is the intention of the authors.

The first part of the book deals with all the various orchard practices involved in the growing of deciduous tree fruits, from the purchase and planting of the trees to the harvest and marketing of the fruit. In the second part of the book, the practices are applied specifically to each of the major crops.

I believe this book would be even more effective if it included certain additional material, namely: some discussion of the origin of varieties, certification of nursery stock, principles of spray application, the problem of safety in handling spray chemicals and spray residues, and stop-drop sprays. Even a short list of references would be helpful. This could have been accomplished without additional pages by not repeating descriptions of practices for each fruit which are already discussed in earlier chapters.

The authors also include some information that I would question, such as including the Baldwin and Red Astrachan apples in a limited list of varieties for the U. S.; mentioning English Morello and Early Richmond as important sour cherry varieties; listing Virginia Crab as an important rootstock for apple in cold areas.

All in all, however, this book contains much useful information, and is presented in a very readable manner. What is more, its low price tag certainly adds to its attractiveness.

—G. M. Kessler