

COMMERCIAL vs HOME PRODUCTION

Many aspects of agricultural production appear to have conflicting interests. Such opposing points of view have often been assigned to the commercial as contrast to the home production of fruit. In starting our new section "Fruit Garden" in this issue, we wish to state briefly our point of view concerning the commercial as compared to the home grower.

First, it is very difficult for the average backyard gardener to produce tree fruits satisfactorily. Such hazards as insects, diseases, poor site and soil, and the losses caused by winter injury and spring frosts are enough to discourage all but the most ardent hobby gardeners. If left uncontrolled, insects and diseases may cause the crop to be unfit for consumption, and may also serve as a source of trouble for nearby commercial growers.

We do not wish to appear unduly pessimistic about the production of tree fruits in the backyard. However, we see no advantage in side stepping the fact that it involves serious problems. The small scale agriculturist would probably have better success by confining his attention to berries, vegetables and flowers, which may be produced rather easily on small plots of land. The control of insects and diseases is much less difficult on these smaller plants than on standard sized tree fruits.

Please note that we are discussing the problems facing the *average* backyard gardener. The fruit fancier on the other hand, is usually a specialist in his own right, and, as such, is ready with suitable knowledge and equipment to combat insects and diseases. Such experts as these have discovered or originated some of our finest fruit varieties. It is to this group that we would extend a helping hand.

Finally, the home owner usually produces such a small amount of fruit that it is not a serious problem in competition with that produced by the commercial grower. The fruit fancier however, stimulates interest in fruit and may serve to actually increase consumption in his locality. Such a development is favorable to the entire fruit industry.

