

# REVIEWS and ABSTRACTS



## RECORD OF A 50-YEAR-OLD APPLE ORCHARD

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This bulletin discusses the records obtained during the lifetime of a 50-year-old variety test apple orchard. The trees were planted in 1893 and removed in the winter months of 1942-43. A number of observations and conclusions are presented which are of interest to all orchardists. A few of those which seem most closely related to the interests of our readers are summarized in the following paragraphs.

The records substantiate the observation that an elevated site is important in reducing losses by spring frosts.

### Rate of Picking

The rate of picking fruit from 48-year-old trees of Stayman Winesap was 4.9 bushels per hour. The same crew picked 6.9 bushels per hour from 15-year-old trees and 6.0 bushels per hour from 25-year-old trees. It seems safe to conclude that the rate of picking on trees 35 to 50 years old will be at least 2.0 bushels per hour slower than on 15 to 20-year-old trees.

The size, color, and quality of the fruit became poorer with age, especially after the trees passed the 35-year mark.

### Yield Records

An interesting and informative table is given containing the yields of 107 trees of 61 varieties starting with the year 1910. The average date of full bloom and the first picking are also included in this table.

The per-acre trend in production was gradually upward until 1931 when the original trees were 39 years old. The replacements required throughout the life of the orchard produced sufficient fruit to keep the average annual yield per acre at a high level up to the end.

The data show that there was greater fluctuation in yield from year to year after the trees were 35 years old, than prior to this period. Many varieties may become more alternate in bearing habit in later years.

This bulletin also contains information on a number of other topics such as cultural practices, fertilization, mulching, pruning, and spraying. —W.P.J.