

FRUIT VARIETIES RECOMMENDED FOR OKLAHOMA

E. L. Whitehead, Extension Horticulturist
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The author of this circular starts with two paragraphs which emphasize the importance of variety selection for both home garden and commercial plantings. "A home orchard properly planned and cared for can be a source of pleasure as well as fit a food production need. Success to a large degree depends upon selecting and planting fruits of adapted varieties. Successful demonstrations have proved that soils and climatic conditions in many of the communities in Oklahoma are well adapted to commercial fruit production."

"Varieties of fruit should be selected which will provide a succession of fresh fruit throughout the summer and fall. Some people make the mistake of planting only one variety, and as a consequence, have a surplus of fruit for a short time and none for the remainder of the year."

Variety Recommendations

Eleven varieties of apples, nine peaches, two sour cherries, five plums, three pears, seven grapes, two blackberries, three dewberries, and three strawberries are recommended for planting in Oklahoma. A short sentence follows the name of each variety giving a few of its more important characteristics. For the most part these facts should be very useful and will help the grower in selecting the variety which is best suited to his particular needs. In a few cases however,

it would seem that the statements are somewhat misleading.

For example the observation that the Carman peach is "very desirable" does not seem to be in keeping with the present evaluation placed on that variety. Also, the indication that in the case of Early Richmond and Montmorency cherries the "fruit of both varieties similar" is not usually true when these varieties are grown together.

We do not wish to appear to be over-critical of the material published by various authors on varieties but at the same time we do feel that a constructive effort should be made to improve the accuracy and value of all information which is published on fruit varieties.

Some berry authorities might also question the inclusion of Youngberry and Boysenberry as varieties of dewberries.

On the whole this is a concise list which should be of assistance to Oklahoma growers in selecting the best varieties of fruit to plant. —W.P.J.

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