

every 2 or 3 years or oftener to help maintain soil organic matter.

Strawberry plantings are fertilized with two or three applications of a complete fertilizer such as a 5-7-5 to increase yields of fruit. A top-dressing of a nitrogenous fertilizer may also be helpful in February or March when yields start to decline.

Mulching with pine needles or native grass straw is practiced in the Starke-Lawtey section but not in the southern areas. The mulch is applied at about bloom time over the entire bed and the individual plants are uncovered by hand.

Although injury by frost usually is not a serious problem, several methods are used to avoid such losses; these include covering the plants with cypress board troughs, pine needles, or kraft paper.

Irrigation is an important practice to insure adequate soil moisture.

Suggestions are included concerning picking, packing, grading and marketing. Pre-cooling strawberries before shipment to Northern markets is advisable.

W.P.J.

THE WORLD'S HUNGER

By F. A. PEARSON and F. A. HARPER,

1945

Cornell Univ. Press. 90 pages

This though-provoking book contains data on food production and consumption in different countries of the world. Although the information is not of direct value to fruit growers, it is of interest to all producers and consumers of food materials.

The authors indicate that only 7 per cent of the world's land area has a proper combination of favorable sunlight, temperature, topography, soil fertility, and rainfall to be suitable for food production. Extensive drainage and irrigation projects have been carried out in many countries. Such methods of crop production are expensive and the increased yields secured usually are sufficient only to pay maintenance costs. In most cases the original cost has not been paid and there is no indication that it ever will be. However, about 1 percent of the

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earth's land surface has been irrigated or drained, and this small area probably feeds 1/3 to 1/2 of the world's population.

The conclusion is presented that: "In the main, expansion of the world's agriculture beyond the area now being used is a hazardous undertaking."

Ways to Increase Production

Methods of increasing production on the present acreage are discussed. More complete conservation of animal manures and an increase in the use of commercial fertilizers would materially increase yields. Mechanization has increased food production per farmer but will not increase appreciably the world's food supply. Since a relatively small proportion of man's diet is meat, the improvements in livestock are not as important as some people believe. The use of new and better varieties of crops are discussed briefly but this factor does not seem to have received all the credit which it deserves. The importance of diseases in reducing yields is mentioned but nothing is said about the equally important problem of insects and their control.

Concerning the question of fish the authors conclude: "It seems reasonable to assume that fish will continue to be an unimportant part of the world's diet."

Food vs War

In the final chapter some interesting observations are presented on the effect of food supplies on war. In this connection Europe is considered to be the danger spot because of its high standard of

living, its excess population and its need to exchange industrial products for food.

This book is written in a clear and pleasing style. The information is of interest to all folks who wish to broaden their knowledge of agriculture and who wish to have a better understanding of the importance of food in the world of today and tomorrow.—W.P.J.

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