Selection of Fruit For Exhibition Purposes

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With business gradually swinging back to pre-war conditions, it is time to think again about fairs and expositions. For the past four years, such gatherings had to be curtailed but now the fruit grower must play his part in maintaining public interest in fruit and one of the best ways to do this is by exhibits.

Exhibits Advertise Fruit

A center of attraction at Tennessee fairs in past years has been the apple displays. Such displays involve a great deal of work but they do create public interest in fruit and fruit by-products. The advertising and educational values of such exhiibts are also very important considerations.

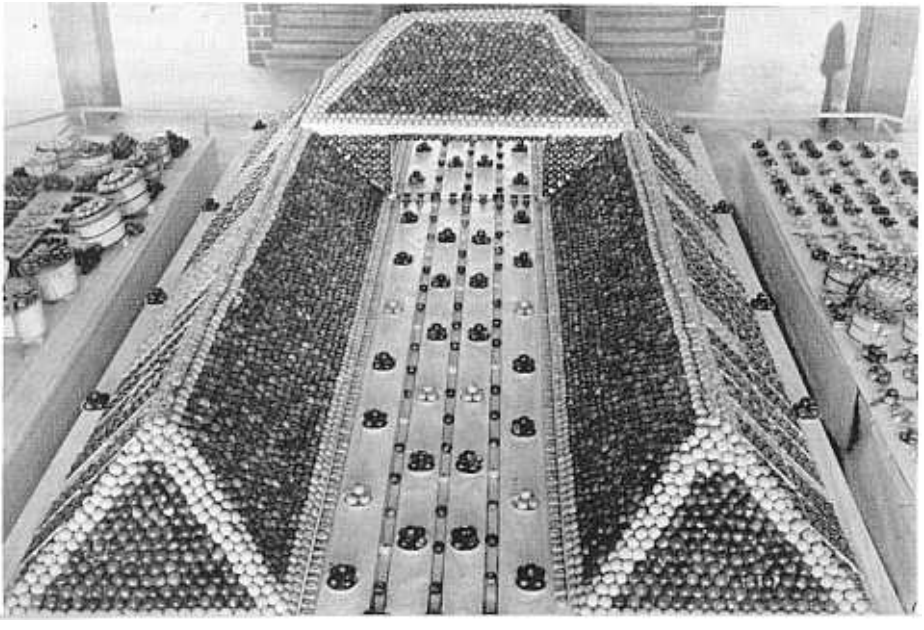
Selecting Fruit For Exhibits

The rivalry between fruit growers exhibiting at fairs and expositions is very high and usually the difference between first and second place fruit is the result of more careful selection of the product displayed by the winning grower. There are five points to consider in selecting fruit and these points are:

(1) Condition
(2) Uniformity
(3) Size
(4) Shape
(5) Color

Condition means that the fruit should be firm-ripe, free of damage by insects or diseases, and free from all other blemishes. To be uniform, the fruit should be so selected that all specimens in the dis-

APPLE DISPLAY, TENNESSEE VALLEY FAIR, SEPTEMBER, 1940



play will look exactly alike in shape, color and size. Using the apple for an example, uniformity of shape, means the shape of the stem, stem cavity, calyx cup, and the over-all shape of the fruit, should be the same for all apples in the display. As for uniformity of color, all the fruit in an individual exhibit should have identical markings whether it be solid color, blush or stripe. Uniformity of size means that all individual fruits be of the same size, both in diameter and height. The shape should be typical for the variety, being exhibited. A Grimes Golden should have the shape considered typical for a Grimes Golden and should not look like a Northwestern Greening. Color adds to the attractiveness of the display but a blush on an apple considered yellow, such as the Grimes Golden, may count against an exhibit when judged in a class with as good Grimes Golden which have no blush. Also, an all red McIntosh exhibit will place first when compared with an equal exhibit of McIntosh having only fifty percent color. This brings out the fact that red varieties should be all red, blushed varieties should be selected with a blush, and the yellow varieties should be yellow without blush.

Types of Apple Displays

Apples are shown for competition in various ways, the most common being plates of five apples, flats (western box size in length and width) containing one layer of fruit, packed western boxes, packed eastern boxes, packed bushel baskets, packed half bushel baskets and sometimes packed barrels. Apples may also be shown in an accumulative exhibit containing all of the above mentioned displays, or they may be shown in connection with other fruit and fruit by-products. All of the considerations for condition, uniformity, size, shape and color of the fruit previously discussed apply to any fruit exhibited regardless of kind or the manner in which it is displayed.

Preferred Sizes for Apples

The American Society of Horticultural Science has decided upon accepted size ranges for different varieties of apples used in competition, which are as follows:

VARIETY	Diameter In Inches
Arkansas	3 to 3½
Baldwin	2¾ to 3⅜
Ben Davis	2¾ to 3⅜
Delicious	7⅞ to 3¼
Esopus	3 to 3½
Grimes	2¾ to 3¼
Hubbardston	2¾ to 3¼
Jonathan	2¾ to 3
King David	2¾ to 3¼
McIntosh	2¾ to 3½
Northern Spy	2⅛ to 3½
Northwestern Greening	3¼ to 3¾
Rhode Island Greening	3 to 3⅜
Rome	3 to 3½
Roxbury	2⅞ to 3¼
Stark	3 to 3⅜
Stayman Winesap	3 to 3⅜
Tompkins King	3¼ to 3¾
Wagener	2¾ to 3⅜
Wealthy	2¼ to 3¼
Williams	2⅝ to 2⅞
Winesap	2¾ to 3
Winter Banana	3⅛ to 3½
Yellow Bellflower	3 to 3¼
Yellow Newtown	2⅞ to 3⅛
York Imperial	3⅛ to 3⅜

One of the most common mistakes of the exhibitor is to select his specimens too large. By using this table as a guide, one can easily overcome this fault when selecting apples.

Scoring or Judging Apples

All exhibitors are interested in how their fruit is judged and the basis the judges used in placing the various entries. In most cases, the following score cards have been generally accepted for judging apples and pears:

Plate Exhibits

FACTORS CONSIDERED	Points
Form	15
Size	15
Color	20
Uniformity	20
Condition	30
	100

Basket Exhibits

FACTORS CONSIDERED	Points
General appearance of package	10
Bulge and facing layer	10
Fruit in pack	
Form	10
Size	10
Color	15
Uniformity	15
Condition	30
	100

Box Exhibits

FACTORS CONSIDERED	Points
Box (Nailing, Marking)	5
Attractiveness of pack	5
Compactness and row alignment	10
Bulge and ends	15
Fruit in pack	
Form	5
Size	5
Color	10
Uniformity	15
Condition	30
	100

Disqualifications and Defects

A judge will disqualify an entry in a class if he finds a fruit in that entry not true to name. If a class is labeled Cortland, each entry in that class must contain only Cortland apples in order to place. Another thing of importance is to be sure that no fruit contains insects of any type, especially codling moth or apple maggot, and that no fruit is infected with soft rot, bitter rot, black rot, apple blotch or apple scab. These defects listed are the most serious ones and the presence of any of these will result almost always in the entry being placed at the bottom of the class. Any blemish at all is undesirable but some blemishes are considered more serious than others. It is also important to remember that for exhibition purposes all apples and pears should have stems.

Assembling Exhibit

One of the easiest ways to obtain material for display purposes is to select the fruit as it passes over the grading table. After selecting this fruit, it should be run through the sizer and then the material is ready to be selected for the final displays. If all fruit is so selected before being transported to the exhibition location, setting up the displays will be a pleasure rather than a chore. One of the greatest pleasures in fruit growing comes with the satisfaction of winning prize money and blue ribbons.