## Performance of Newer Pear Varieties in Massachusetts

The following observations of some of the newer varieties of pears are based on their performance at Amherst, Mass., as reported in Fruit Notes (Jan.-Feb. 1967) by J. F. Anderson.

**Chapin:** Small to medium green pear with red blush. Flesh is fine-textured, juicy, free of grit cells, and of good quality. Matures in early August.

**Starkrimson:** Red sport of Clapp Favorite, which it resembles in fruit size, shape and quality. Solid red skin. Fruit is mature Aug. 20.

**Packham's Triumph:** Large greenish-yellow fruit with a somewhat rough surface. Flesh is white, fine, melting, free of grit cells, and of very good quality. Fruit is harvested in late September.

**Alexander Lucas:** Late ripening, medium-sized, greenish-yellow pear of good quality. Harvested third week in September. Productive.

**Dumont:** A medium-sized late pear with yellow skin, and firm, juicy flesh of good quality. Fruit harvested in late September has kept well into December. Productive.

## Peach Varieties Vary in Ease With Which They Can Be Chemically Thinned

It is well known that apple varieties vary in the ease with which they can be chemically thinned. Dr. Frank Emerson, of Purdue University, reports in Peach Times (April, 1967) that peach varieties also vary in this respect. Eight years of chemical thinning work at Purdue indicates that NPA (N-1 napthyl phthalamic acid) plus "Tween-20" (¾ pint per 100 gal.) does a reasonably effective job of thinning on peaches. A concentration of 75 parts per million of NPA has been best for easy to thin varieties, 150 ppm for moderately easy to thin varieties, and 200 ppm for hard to thin varieties.

Dr. Emerson classifies varieties on the basis of their relative ease of thinning as follows:

**Easy to thin:** Golden Jubilee, Redelberta, Triogem, Earliglow, Goldgem, Merrill 49'er, So Good, Frank.

**Moderately easy to thin:** Jerseyland, Elberta, Early Red Fre, Fairhaven, Kalhaven, Sunhaven, Richhaven, Loring, Nectar, Fireball, Poppy, Garnet, Vesper.

**Hard to thin:** Redhaven, Halehaven, Redskin, Belle of Georgia, White Hale, Raritan Rose, Aurora, Laterose, Magill Hardy.

## Photoperiodism in Apples

A very fascinating study dealing with the flowering response of apple to daylength (photoperiodism) has been reported by C. J. Gorter, of the Netherlands, in Horticultural Research (Vol. 5, No. 6, 1965). Young trees of the variety Lombartscalville, grafted on Malling IV rootstocks were grown either in the long days of natural daylight or in short days of 8 hours of daylight for five seasons. Although the Lombartscalville trees bloomed under short days, the long natural days significantly increased the number of flowers of this variety. This seemed to clearly demonstrate that the apple variety studied is photoperiodic.

Previous studies by Gorter have shown that the varieties Yellow Transparent and Jonathan are not photoperiodic.