

## Orchard and Garden

### Exhibiting Fruit at the Fairs

**T**HERE is now showing in the orchard, the results of the season's work. If we have poor results we find excuses, and blame nature and the weather for the results we got. If we have good results we take all the credit ourselves and are proud to show the results of our ability. Egotistical? Yes, but it's human nature, and the man who does not feel proud is the exception rather than the rule.

There is not a better place to show the results of our work than at the fairs, either local, county or state. Here we have plenty of chance to show the products of our orchard and to come into friendly rivalry with our fellow fruit-growers. Besides the spirit of contest, the exhibiting of fruit at the fairs has many other advantages. The fact that one is exhibiting shows enterprise and adds to one's reputation of being up-to-date. Then, too, the exhibition, if it is a creditable one, is a good advertisement and if it has won some prizes is an especially good advertisement. Exhibiting also gives one an opportunity to compare his fruit with that of others. We may have a very good opinion of our fruit until we set it beside that of someone else. Also, your good fruit, with that of others, constitute an exhibit of what can be accomplished by good orcharding and may lead others to better endeavors along that line.

**Exhibit Fruit Free from Blemishes.**  
Judging from the exhibits often seen, many do not know what constitutes a good exhibit from the judges standpoint, and on that account, while they have good fruit on hand, they may lose many prizes they would otherwise win.

The first essential is to have fruit free from blemishes, as blemishes, especially those caused by insects and diseases, are greatly discounted. Next it is important to have all the specimens of uniform size. Uniformity in size constitutes good packing in a commercial way, as well as good appearance in an exhibition. A plate of four medium sized apples, topped off with one large one, may look good to the casual observer, but the judge is likely to take the top one off and see the lack of uniformity which has otherwise been hidden.

Uniformity of color is also essential and uniformly well colored fruit is given much consideration by the judge. It is better to have a lack of color and have it uniform, than to have a few specimens well colored and the others green.

**Fruit Should be Normal.**

The size and shape of the fruit should be normal for the variety. For instance, flat specimens of varieties which are naturally oblong should not be used and an oversized, as well as undersized, specimen should be discarded.

Many people do not know the number of specimens which constitute a plate of the various kinds of fruit, and by not having the proper number often fail in winning a premium which they would otherwise have received. For apples, pears, peaches and quinces the proper number is five, and for crabapples and plums 12 constitute a plate. For grapes, five bunches are necessary for a plate.

It is a matter of personal preference of the judge as to the wiping of the fruit. Most judges do not let that matter influence their judgment but many will discriminate against fruit polished with paraffine wax or by other means, which will cause an unnaturally high polish on the fruit.

**Read Rules of Premium Lists.**

The premium lists should be well studied if fruit is being gathered for the collection contests. Various collections may be entered with duplicate plates of the same varieties. There may be a general collection, one for market varieties, another for dessert apples, and then the single plate classes in which the more com-

mon varieties may be entered. It is, therefore, advisable to take along three or four plates of these varieties for the various collections. A single plate can not be entered in the single plate classes and the collections at the same time. Separate plates will be needed for each contest entered.

**Quality Counts.**

For the larger and general collections, it should be kept in mind that, while a larger number of varieties is good, the quality of the fruit should be given first consideration. An exhibitor of a collection of a large number of varieties is often disappointed when a smaller collection of fewer varieties but better quality fruit is given the preference over his collection. The judgment of the judge is not wrong in such a case, but the exhibitor fails to realize the bearing good quality has on making the judgment.

If the fruit has to be shipped, pack it carefully to prevent bruising. The soft and ripe fruit should be wrapped individually and packed in small packages. The winter fruit may be put in paper sacks, enough in each sack for a plate, and then packed in barrels. In any case, plenty of paper or excelsior should be used in packing.

**Varieties Should be Labeled.**

Be sure that all of the varieties are labeled, as many premiums have been lost because the variety was not designated. It is a good plan to get the labels ready at home, as there will be plenty to do at the time of putting up the exhibit.

Send plenty of extra specimens along to replace those bruised in shipment, and pack the fruit so that it will unpack with the least confusion. The time of unpacking and preparing the exhibits is a busy and strenuous one, and nothing should

be left undone which will add to the work at that time.

Exhibiting at fairs is not, in the words of a common expression, "easy money," but it is worth while in what is gained in experience as well as premiums.—Selected.



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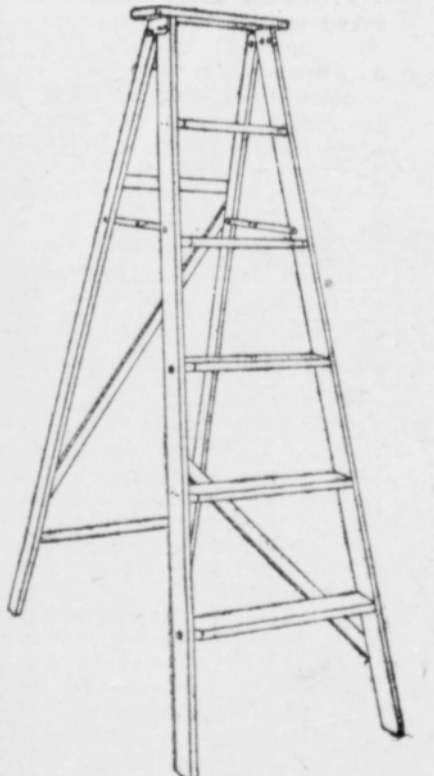
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