

In the five states of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas commercial plantings in recent years have not been sufficient to maintain the present bearing average. The proportion of young trees in these five states is now much less than four years ago. In 1929 only 25 per cent of the trees were less than six years of age as again 67 per cent in 1925. In Georgia about 30 per cent of the trees that were in commercial orchards in 1925 have been taken out or abandoned, and plantings have only been sufficient to replace one-third of them. More than 80 per cent of the decrease in the number of trees, however, has occurred in the southern district from which the earliest shipments are made.

The peach acreage for the United States in 1919 is shown in figure 1.

CALIFORNIA PEACH DISTRICTS

Sacramento Valley District.—Nearly every county in the Sacramento Valley grows peaches. The soil and water conditions are such that the peach tree thrives, making a remarkably quick and vigorous growth and producing fruit of large size. It is not uncommon for orchards to begin commercial bearing at three or four years of age, and at five years to produce 15 tons of fruit per acre (see figure 7).

Sutter County in 1929 had the largest bearing acreage in this district, with Placer second, and Butte third (Table 1). In Butte, Sacramento, Sutter and Yuba counties mostly canning varieties are grown. In Solano, Yolo, and Tehama counties, the varieties are mostly freestone, used either for drying or shipping. Placer County, located in the Sierra foothills, where the elevation and soil are favorable for shipping varieties, has specialized in growing these kinds. During the past few years however, new plantings have been curtailed because of unfavorable returns to the grower.

The principal pests in the valley sections are peach leaf curl, peach blight, powdery mildew, peach rust and the peach twig-borer. The foothill sections contend with fewer of these troubles having principally peach blight and peach twig-borer.

San Joaquin Valley District.—The San Joaquin Valley is the greatest peach district in California, having about 45 per cent of all the bearing acres and about 40 per cent of the non-bearing acres. In 1929 Fresno County had the largest bearing acreage in this district followed in acreage by Stanislaus, Merced, and Tulare. On the other hand, Tulare County had the largest number of non-bearing acres, followed by Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.