

only where the annual rainfall can be adequately supplemented with irrigation water.

*Soil for Peaches.*—The best soil for the peach is a deep fertile loam, easily worked, and well drained. Large sections of land in parts of the state are totally unsuited to peach growing because of too shallow soil. It is unwise to buy land without determining the nature of the subsoil. A soil auger is an excellent means of determining the physical conditions of the subsoil, as regards texture and moisture, to a depth of six or eight feet. A peach soil must be free from excess of alkali salts, as the peach is sensitive to alkali.

Excessive irrigation has sometimes resulted in the rise of the water table causing injury to the orchards. A high water table not only seriously limits the root development of the peach, but it may become a factor in the rise and accumulation of alkali in the upper soil layers, where most of the roots are found. The water table should not be within six or eight feet of the surface. Drainage to remove excess water may be feasible in some cases, although expensive. Land that requires drainage may be more satisfactorily utilized for the growing of other crops that withstand more moisture and alkali than does the peach.

#### VARIETIES OF PEACHES FOR THE ORCHARD

*Choice of Varieties.*—There are three important considerations in choosing varieties of peaches for the orchard; namely, (1) adaptability to the local conditions; (2) suitability for the purpose for which they are grown; and (3) time and sequence of ripening. The value of a variety in a particular locality can be best determined by the experience of growers.

*Groups of Peach Varieties.*—Some authors divide the peaches into five groups—(1) *Peen-to* or *Saucer*; (2) *Honey*; (3) *Spanish*; (4) *Chinese Cling*; and (5) *Persian*.

The varieties in the *Peen-to* (*Saucer*) group are flat, usually with juicy, white flesh, mottled with red. The pit is small and round without pronounced corrugations. The tree frequently holds its leaves throughout the winter. While not of general commercial value, varieties of this race can be planted for home use in the very mild sections because they are not troubled with delayed foliation.

The fruit of the *Honey* group has a deep suture and a pronounced beak. It has a sweet honey-like flavor, but does not keep well. The tree tends to hold its leaves over winter. The typical varieties are: *Honey*, *Florida*, *Gem* and *Pallas*. These varieties like those of the *Peen-to* group do not appear to be troubled by delayed foliation.