

tree is making a good growth, two fruit buds and a leaf bud at a node are likely to be common (fig. 3), while with trees making a weak growth fruit buds are generally single. Their position upon the twig is largely dependent upon the growth of the tree and the habit of the particular variety. A tree growing moderately, normally forms the fruit buds from the middle portion toward the tip of the season's growth. Trees making a rank growth are likely to produce few, and scattering fruit buds near the tip of the season's growth. The formation of fruit buds on the peach seems to be encouraged by a moderate growth of the twigs.

*Varietal Characteristics.*—It is important to know the habits of the particular variety to be pruned. Generally, most varieties with a moderate growth have their flowers well distributed, such as, Alexander, Early Crawford, Elberta, Lemon Cling, Lovell, and Muir. A few, however, like the Phillips and Tuscan (Tuskena) tend to bear their fruit buds near the tips of the season's growth. Removal of the outer portion of the season's growth in varieties like the latter may, therefore, reduce the crop.

*Methods of Shaping.*—Many California growers use the open-center type of tree, modifying it according to their particular ideas. In this type of pruning the main branches arising from the trunk are allowed to grow more or less freely and the center of the tree is kept sufficiently open to admit light, but enough shade is left to avoid sunburning of the branches.

*First Summer's Pruning.*—In April or early May of the first growing season unnecessary growth may be thinned out. If not already selected, three limbs for the framework as previously discussed may be chosen. Pinch off the tips of the undesirable shoots permitting a few leaves to remain to help shade the trunk and to contribute plant food to the tree. The trees may be gone over again in about six weeks to suppress subsequent undesirable growth. Unless this summer pruning is intelligently and carefully done early in the season, preferably by the grower himself, it will not generally accomplish the desired results and the purpose may be defeated.

*First Dormant Pruning.*—The first dormant pruning will depend upon the previous pruning and the growth the tree has made. In most cases there will be some secondary branching on the main limbs. Each main branch should have two well placed secondary branches. The main limbs may be cut back lightly above the secondary branching. Moderate rather than severe pruning will induce less excessive wood growth.