

fruit crops and for some of our more important ornamentals like the rose. It recognizes that the whole question of stocks is a broad and complex one and that much work will need to be done to secure light on the many questions involved. We are beginning to appreciate more and more that our future successful fruit culture is intimately associated with the problem of stocks. With the exception of the grape, no far-reaching studies have been made on stocks in this or any other country. We have followed certain empirical practices in the past, but as competition becomes greater and the demand for the highest grades of fruits and plant products increases, we must know more of the actual relation of stocks to quality of product, to the length of life of the tree or plant, to adaptability to soil and climate, to resistance to disease and insect attacks.

The question of stocks would seem to resolve itself into two main groups of problems: (1) The practicability of producing in this country the millions of ordinary apple, pear, plum, and cherry stocks which hitherto have been largely secured abroad. (2) The systematic study of stocks with a view to their improvement and their better adaptability to the wide variety of conditions and needs that exist here and are likely to develop in the future as our great fruit industries become more complex. It is imperative that if our fruit industries are to be maintained, there must be full supplies of the usual or ordinary stocks. The securing of special stocks is a long time process and will have to proceed slowly and carefully, building up cautiously on the foundations we already have and must maintain.

Pear growing is not one of our paramount fruit industries, yet it is safe to say with no other fruit is there a greater proportion of trees lost each year which must be replaced if normal production is to be maintained. Fire blight is the chief cause of the loss of pear trees in this country, and while it is highly desirable to find stocks, or to develop stocks, that may in a measure prevent some of the losses to pear growers from fire blight, the pressing need is to maintain the supplies of French and Japanese seedlings required to keep the number of trees up to normal. If stocks are to be produced in this country to take the place of those hitherto secured abroad, it would seem proper that efforts should be made by the Government to aid those who are anxious to know where