

PEACH CULTURE

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Peach Culture by James Alexander Fulton

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JAMES ALEXANDER FULTON

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BY

JAMES ALEXANDER FULTON.

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TO
HIS EXCELLENCY
GOVERNOR GOVE SAULSBURY,
MY ESTEEMED
FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR,
THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS
RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .

Within the last few years, fruit culture, in all its varieties, has greatly increased in this country; so that, to-day, it is one of the leading interests. Fruit growers' associations have been formed, and many periodicals established, to advocate and advance their interests. Their usefulness has been undoubted, and their success very encouraging.

Amongst the fruits, the *Peach*, if not the most, is one of the most important of all. It is so easily raised, comes into bearing so soon, and is so delicious, as well as beautiful, it is impossible that it should not be a favorite.

The consequence is that, in the sections specially conducive to its cultivation, almost every farm has an orchard, and some farms are but one continuous orchard; and sometimes farm after farm is devoted to peaches. Within the circle of our own knowledge, the quantity of land planted in peaches, by individual planters, varies from five acres to six hundred. Some planters have set as many as twenty thousand trees in a single season. Orchards of twenty, thirty, and fifty acres are not at all infrequent.

Living in the very center of the peach-growing district; sharing the common interest felt in the subject; deeply impressed with its importance to the individual planters themselves, and also to the community at large; and believing that we could do a lasting benefit to both, have induced us to prepare, and now offer to the public, the following little treatise on peach culture. Our aim has been,

1. To give plain, simple and specific directions for rearing the trees; for planting and cultivating an orchard; for gathering and marketing the fruit, with some data as to its profitableness as a distinct branch of agriculture.

2. To point out, clearly and distinctly, the impositions practiced by railroad companies and consignees upon planters, and the means of redress.

3. To indicate and briefly describe the varieties that pay, and the way to enable young planters, as well as old ones, planting new orchards, to select the most profitable kinds, and thus benefit the whole community by increasing the productiveness of our farms, and the profits of our planters.

Our effort has been to make it a hand-book and guide to every planter, to be used as a student uses his dictionary in the acquisition of a language.

It has been written piecemeal, in mere snatches of time, gleaned from the pressing engagements of professional life, with constant interruptions and diversions. In these brief periods, ranging from five minutes to an hour or two, this little work has been prepared; and our fear is that it will bear the marks of haste and incompleteness on its face. Of its general utility, and substantial accuracy, we have no doubt, and cheerfully submit it to the numerous, intelligent and respectable peach growers of our country.

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