

tucky; second place went to Sid Holloway, Mayfield; third place went to H. M. Holloway, Mayfield; and fourth place went to Miller's Orchard, Valley Station.

Individual orchard booth display winners were as follows: First, Joe Bray & Sons, Bedford; second, J. W. Fegenbush, Buechel; third, Miller's Orchard, Valley Station; and fourth, H. M. Holloway, Mayfield.

Sweepstake honors for the best bushel of apples and best tray of apples went to Lester Harris, of Kevil in McCracken county, for the third straight year, on the Golden Delicious variety. Joe Bray & Sons, Bedford, won sweepstake honors on the best basket and best plate of peaches with the Hale variety and on the best plate of grapes with the Niagara variety. Other sweepstake winners were: J. W. Fegenbush, Buechel, on best plate of apples and Fred J. W. Wirth, Louisville, on pears.

Top honors in the general peach and grape exhibit went to Joe Bray & Sons, Bedford. Top pear and plum honors went to Mrs. D. C. Witherspoon, Anchorage.

There was stiff competition in the bushel, tray, and plate classes with premiums divided among the various exhibitors. For the third straight year, Lester Harris, of Kevil in McCracken county, brought up some very high class exhibits and with 24 entries, won 14 blue ribbons, 7 red ribbons and 3 white ribbons, besides the two sweepstakes.

Ross Harris, Paducah, Kentucky, sent up some very fine peaches and, as a first-time exhibitor, made a good start by winning second place in the peach exhibit to Joe Bray and Sons' very outstanding exhibit of Hale peaches. Thomas Jackson, of Parksville, another new exhibitor, made a nice start on apples and pears. It is always interesting to see new exhibitors take their place in the fruit exhibit and to have the older exhibitors back from year to year. All are welcome. There is much good-natured visiting, friendly rivalry, and good comradeship among the fruit growers and their families and friends, as they go about packing their trays, selecting their plate apples or decorating their booths in their efforts to capture the coveted blue and purple ribbons.

Most growers usually return home with the determination to do a better job of spraying and general fruit growing in order to return next year with superior fruit.

FALL MULCHING PAYS IN KENTUCKY

W. D. ARMSTRONG

Strawberry mulching trials have been under way in Kentucky since the Special Horticultural Program started in 1938.

At every harvest except two, 1939 and 1946, fall mulching has given outstanding increases in yield over non-mulched or spring-mulched plots or fields. The work to date has shown that, as an average, fall or early winter-mulching will give an increase of 30 crates per acre over no mulching or spring-mulching at least 3 years out of 4.

The harvest of 1939 was preceded by one of the warmest winters in recent years. Also, the harvest of 1946 was preceded by a somewhat mild winter. **During such open warm winters** strawberry plants in western Kentucky (from Greenville on west and south) are slightly depressed by even a moderate winter-mulch. These mild winters are decidedly the exception, however, rather than the rule. Records and experience show that all of Kentucky can expect temperatures as low as 10° to 20° above zero by Christmas and temperatures that go to zero or below several times during the remainder of the winter. The greatest increase recorded was following the sub-zero weather of 1940. During that period temperatures went to 10° to 15° below zero **with no snow on the ground**, and fall-mulched plots averaged 80 crates per acre more than non-mulched plots. This same contrast held for mulched and non-mulched fields over the district. In addition to heavier yields through winter protection of the plants, that mulch that spreads to the middles also helps prevent soil loss through erosion. The main objection to fall-mulching among growers is the fact that they often get a stand of wheat, cheat or rye over their fields from mulch spread in the fall. This can be largely overcome by proper handling of the material.