

# Winter Pears Abundant

The most misunderstood winter fruit is the pear. The problem lies not in the eating, but in the ripening. Winter pears, more specifically the Anjou variety, are on the market in record quantities. Marketing Specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture say the total pack of winter

pears reached 6.9 million boxes. As of the first of the year there were 4 million boxes still available, 35 percent more than on the same date a year earlier. A supply so large will insure good, fresh-fruit eating right into spring. But you must know when the pears you buy are right for

eating. Contrary to most ripening fruits, color is no indication of ripeness. Characteristic of the Anjou is its green to yellow-green skin and its smooth texture. This will not change during the ripening process.

Unlike most fruits, the pear is picked when mature but not ripe. As a matter of interest, should you ever see it advertised as tree-ripened, you would be right not to purchase it. Tree ripening of this pear causes it to lose its fine flavor and smooth texture.

The only true test of ripeness is the thumb test. It will be hard and firm to the touch when you buy it since it has been kept refrigerated since harvest. To ripen to perfect eating condition, pears should be held at room temperature, preferably 60 to 70 degrees, for a few days to a week.

Test pears daily. They are ripe when they yield to gentle thumb pressure. To test, place the pear in the palm of your hand and apply thumb pressure at the stem end of the pear. To inhibit further ripening, pears should be stored in the refrigerator.

Some fruit dealers now offer pears "conditioned" for immediate use. Conditioning, a commercial ripening process or fresh pears is a time-saving service for some food stores, restaurants, hotels,

# Bank Notices

The Board of Directors of Dauphin Deposit Trust Company, at its regular meeting held on March 17, 1975, declared an 8 percent stock dividend, to be distributed on April 18, 1975 to stockholders of record on March 15, 1975.

According to W. D. Lewis, president of Dauphin Deposit, it had been the intention of the bank to distribute a 5 percent stock dividend upon the date that Dauphin Deposit's proposed holding company became operational. Formation of the holding company has been delayed due to requirements for additional information requested by the regulatory authorities. The Board of Directors, therefore, having in mind the best interests of the bank, its

hospitals, and other institutions. But for the most part, pears found in food stores must be ripened by the consumer.

Anjou pears are great for out-of-hand eating and they are particularly good when used in salads. You'll be glad you served them in this manner. So will your family.

**Pear Crunch Salad**  
 6 fresh Anjou pears  
 2 tbsp. lemon juice  
 1 cup chopped celery  
 1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
 1/4 cup chopped ripe olives  
 1/2 cup mayonnaise  
 Crisp salad greens

Core pears and trim tops to give petal shape. Sprinkle teaspoon of lemon juice over each pear. Combine celery, nuts, olives, and mayonnaise. Fill pears with crunchy celery mixture. Serve on salad greens.

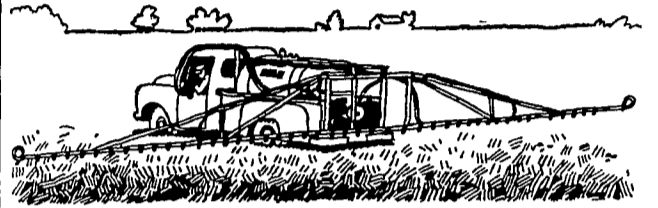
customers and stockholders feels justified in increasing the stock dividend to 8 percent and distributing it now.

Dauphin Deposit has sufficient authorized shares

of stock to permit distribution of the stock dividend without the necessity for a special stockholders meeting, according to Lewis.

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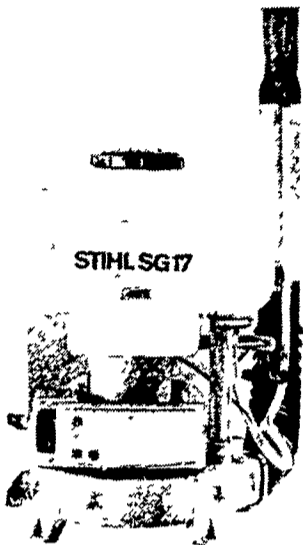
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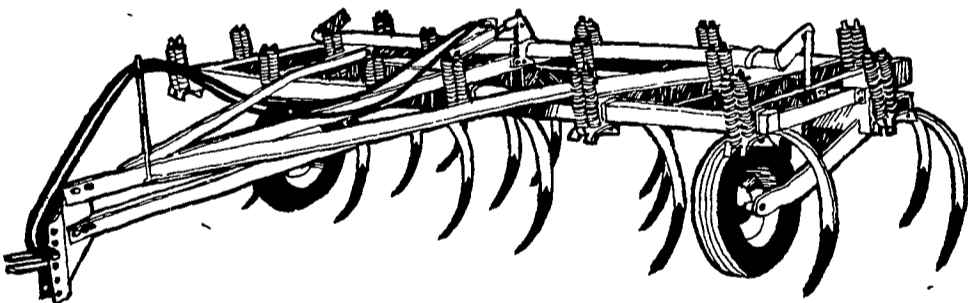
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