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## Can Apple Trees be Made to Bear Annually?

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If it were possible to thin blossoms economically there would be little question about annual crop of apples even on biennial bearing varieties. But thinning of blossoms is not feasible commercially. Early thinning of fruits, however, may be worth the cost even though rather expensive.

There is evidence to show that thinning within two or three weeks of petal fall will help to overcome the biennial tendency.

In discussing biennial bearing at a recent F. and H. Week meeting, G. F. Potter of New Hampshire referred to a grower in Washington who, after observing a light

set of Anjou pears in spite of a heavy bloom decided to experiment with his apple trees. He inflicted the Anjou habit of set on his biennial bearing Newtown and Ortley apples by a system of hand thinning of the blossoms. The result was a crop of apples the next season.

In a test near Hancock, Maryland, where side differences in vigor of growth in mature York trees had been induced by means of pruning and fertilizing. No differences in regularity of bearing were observed until a frost thinned out the bloom and reduced the set. Then, annual bearing occurred on all plots.

