

*Internal*  
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### ECDC faces competitor for key business

At a recent meeting of the State Institutional Trustland Association, held in Price two weeks ago, a proposal by a company competing with the East Carbon Development Corporation on the municipal waste disposal contract, was given a letter of intent for a 2942 acre land site that would be used as a land fill.

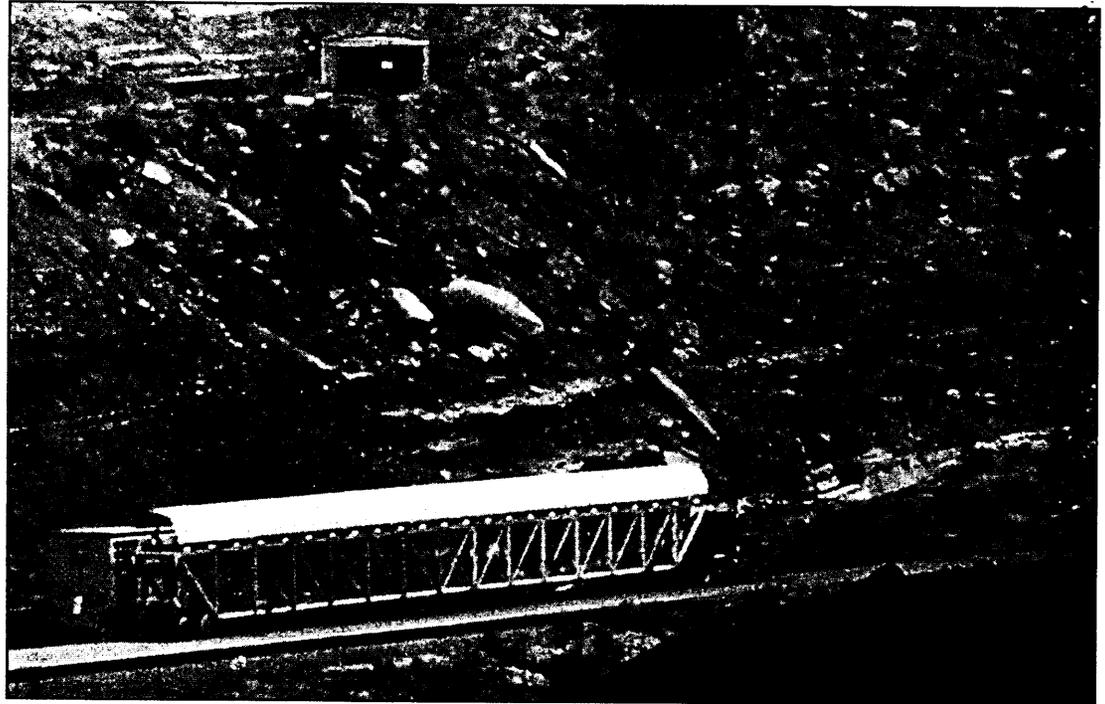
The site, located west of Salt Lake and north of Tooele, would take 600-700 tons of waste from the Salt Lake recycling center per day that is now being sent to the

ECDC facility in Carbon County.

The proponents of the proposed land fill said that they would be going after the contract that Salt Lake has and could be in business and in operation within a year.

The SITLA meetings which are held at various times in different parts of the state were held in Carbon County for the first time in a couple of years. SITLA administrates the school trust lands that the state owns in all parts of Utah.

### Willow Creek belt lines being taken down and removed



The large conveyer belts that hauled coal from the Willow Creek Mine to the processing area and then to the loading tipple have been slowly dismantled over the past few weeks. Here a truck hauls one of the sections away in the

shadow of one of the transport tunnels that were built to house the line. Hauling these large units is a difficult and dangerous job. Transport on the highway requires a lot of skill as well as a number of support vehicles.

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### The skinny on thinning fruit trees for better production

One of the hardest tasks for a gardener is to thin fruit. Most fear that removing fruit will reduce the amount they will harvest later. In reality, however, thinning fruit helps the tree produce more usable fruit. It keeps the tree healthier and helps it produce more the next year.

"One of the problems with apple trees, for example, is biennial bearing," said Jerry Goodspeed, Utah State University Extension horticulturist. "This means the tree produces a heavy crop one year and a light crop or no crop the next."

Goodspeed explained that this is because each spur (where apples are borne) can only produce an apple every

two years. If all the spurs develop fruit one year, none are left to produce the following year.

"The fruit is there to protect the tree's seed," he said. "Without seeds, the tree produces no fruit."

Typically, the more fruit on a tree, the smaller the fruit. If the tree has too much fruit, there is actually less consumable fruit because the seeds take up more energy and edible fruit.

"Imagine that a fruit tree is like dealing with a bank," notes Goodspeed. "You have \$1,000 to put in the bank. For each checking account opened, you are charged a \$25 service charge. It doesn't matter how much you put in the account, you still get dinged \$25. Although you

is the seeds or pits in fruit. The seeds and pits are always a constant. If you have too much fruit, you receive too many service charges with the seeds or pits, yielding less edible fruit for you."

As far as methods for thinning, apples can be the trickiest. They are produced on small spurs (modified stems) and need to be handled with care. When thinning apples, be sure not to damage the spur. The spurs can produce apples for many years, but once the spur is damaged, it is through producing.

Because he worries about the spurs, Goodspeed recommends using scissors to thin apples. Simply cut the apple off right next to

produce fruit the next year.

"Leave about one apple every 5 to 7 inches, or one apple every three spurs," said Goodspeed. "Each spur has the ability to grow up to five apples. That is too many apples on a spur, so leave only one apple per spur after thinning. To decide which apples to remove, look at the cluster of fruit, keep the biggest one and then carefully remove the rest."

Peaches are more fun to thin than apples. Thin peaches to about one peach every 5 to 7 inches. Since peaches are borne on last year's wood, gardeners don't have to worry about preserving the spurs.

"Now is the time to thin fruit trees," Goodspeed concluded. "The tree will