

PAPER SHELL PECANS ARIZONA'S ACE CROP

By HOWARD H. STALLINGS, '25

This Nut Should Not Longer be Considered a Table Luxury, and Future Demands for This Product Will Far Exceed the Supply.

Not many years ago pecans were scarcely worth gathering, but as they became better known, people began to realize what a delicious nut they were, and what a great amount of food value they possessed. At one time it was thought that a pecan grove was practically worthless, and thousands of fine seedling trees were slaughtered in order to have the space to grow cotton. Today, in many cases, the crop from one or two trees will bring as much as a bale of cotton.

Before investing in pecans let us investigate both present and future demands for this product. What are the present prices for pecans and what argument is there for favorable prices in the future?

First, let us quote Dr. J. H. Kellogg, of Battle Creek Sanitarium, Battle Creek, Mich., who says, "The nut should no longer be considered as a table luxury. It should become a staple article of food and may most profitably replace the pork and meats of various kinds, which are inferior foods and are recognized as prolific sources of diseases." Secondly, let us look into the the situation of demand. The number of uses for nuts is increasing daily, and the quantities used by confectioners and grocery stores would surprise anyone. We have the world for a market and twelve months to market them in.

Only a small portion of the South and Southwest can grow pecans successfully, and many who have the proper land and water requirements will not set out pecans because they are not willing to wait. But few people really know a pecan nut, and still less is the number of people realizing that we have never grown enough pecans of both budded and seedling varieties to give the school children of the United States enough for one meal. The world is calling for pecans, because they are by far one of the best flavored, and richest nuts in food value grown today.

Now let us consider the price. Years ago, the price that was paid for seedling pecans would not justify gathering them, but today seedling

nuts are bringing from ten to forty cents per pound, and the budded varieties are bringing wholesale, from forty cents to one dollar and twenty-five cents per pound. According to some growers, paper shell pecans can be sold at half this price, and the grower will realize a favorable return on his investment.

As far as climatic conditions are concerned pecans will grow anywhere cotton will grow. The soil should not be acid, but should be rich in plant foods—although these may be added after the trees have been planted. Pecans do not differ from most fruit trees in the soil they require, but a person must keep in mind the fact that the pecan must have room for a deep and far reaching root system to support an enormous tree.

Regarding the preparation of soil for the pecan grove, the land should be broken as early as possible, and in many cases it will be best to subsoil, especially where it is hard and tight. If a crop of peas can be grown before, or after the trees are set, and turned under while green, it will add much to the growth of the trees.

Trees may be set out from November to March. At this time they are usually dormant and more able to withstand the rigors of transportation and transplanting.

The distance to plant trees depends on the type of soil, and the available supply of moisture. Very rich bottom land should have from (according to the Texas Pecan Nursery), 12 to 15 trees per acre. The distance recommended for Southern Arizona is sixty feet each way, or thirty feet in the row, and the rows sixty feet apart. In using this system it is recommended that every other tree in the row be removed when the trees become large enough to hinder growth. By this method a larger return may be realized the first few years. Medium land should carry from 17 to 20, and thin land from 20 to 25 trees per acre.

27 trees per acre, 40 ft. apart.

20 trees per acre, 46 ft. 8 in. apart.

17 trees per acre, 50 ft. apart.

12 trees per acre, 60 ft. apart.

Holes should be dug from 30 to 36 inches in width and depth. The top soil should be put in one pile and the bottom soil in another, and when setting trees use the top soil around the roots.

Upon receiving trees from the nursery be sure to protect them from the sun, wind, or from freezing weather. Set them out at once upon arrival if possible, but if it can not be done before the next day, wet the bundle well and place it out of the sun or wind. If you are setting a large number of trees and can not set them the next day, have a trench dug from 30 to 36 inches deep, cut the bundles open, place the trees in this trench so that the soil will touch every root. When the trench has been filled about half full of soil, pour in several buckets of water. This helps to settle the dirt around the roots. The drier the ground the more water necessary. After healed in, keep the ground moist, not too wet. Trees healed in in this manner will stay in first class condition for 30 days.

In all cases, pecan trees should be set from 2 to 4 inches deeper than they came out of the ground when dug from the nursery. Trim all broken or bruised roots, also all roots crossing each other in such a manner as to bind. An excess of small hair roots should be avoided as they do not function when transplanted, and they may serve as a source of disease. Set the trees in their holes giving all the lateral roots a natural downward and outward slope, fill in around these roots with good, well pulverized soil. Fill the hole about three-fourths full until all the lateral roots are covered, see that the soil is well packed among the roots, pour in two or more buckets of water, or better still, run a stream of water down the row, and when the soil has taken up most of the water, finish filling around the tree in the same manner. In fact, the proper way to set a tree is to get it back into the ground just as near like it came out as possible.

As has already been stated, be sure to have your land in good condition

before planting. Plant some crop between the rows that will not grow large, for a tall growing crop will shade and sap the trees. Peas, potatoes, peanuts and all kinds of truck or small plants will be suitable. Corn or cotton may be planted if plenty of room is given on each side.

Unless you are sure you have a very careful hand to work your trees, it is recommended driving two good stakes about eighteen or twenty-four inches from the trees on each side to prevent these trees from being skinned by horse, singletree or plow. Use a 16 inch single tree. The stakes should be four feet high at least.

Experience with pecan trees indicates that in almost every case it is better to cut back from one-third to one-half of the bud growth when setting trees out, in fact, if planting in a very dry section of country, it will pay to cut the trees back within 12 inches of the bud. Some will think that they are ruining their trees, but in most every case the tree will be stronger and more even of growth within two or three years. Make the trees branch where desired. If they are too low, prune to one limb and when they reach the desired height, top them, and make them branch according to a desirable plan. When trees are dug from the nursery row the root system is crippled, so it should not be expected to support as much top in a crippled condition as it did in the nursery row.

WHAT TO PLANT THIS MONTH IN THE GARDEN

Kind	Variety
Brussels Sprouts (Seed bed)	Perfection
Cabbage (Seed bed)	Hollander, Wakefield
Cauliflower (Seed bed)	Snow Ball, Dry Climate
Tomatoes (Seed bed)	June Pink, First Early, Earliana
Peppers (Seed bed)	Pimiento, Bell, Mex Chili
Kale	Sersey, Siberian
Lettuce	Los Angeles, Mkt.
Mustard	Chinese Green
Onion Sets	Bermuda, Crystal Wax
Parsley	Moss Curled
Parsnip	Hollow Crown, Perenshire
Radish	White Icicle, Scarlet Turnip
Turnip	Purple Top, White Globe

RANGE SHEEP MANAGEMENT

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lambs. Docked lambs are neater, cleaner, and bring a higher price. Neither do they have the drain of supporting a heavy tail.

Shearing is sometimes done twice a year, but generally only once, which will be in the spring. It may take place just before or along with lambing, the weather controlling the time, as with lambing. It will be necessary to shear later at the high altitudes, so shearing may take place anywhere from February to even as late as May in some sections, depending on the temperature.

The largest run of sheep is in the fall after they come off the summer range. At this time the lambs are cut out, the old ewes and non breeders culled and delivered. Ewes are culled largely according to the condition of their teeth, and are discarded when these begin to spread which will usually be between 5 and 6 years of age. The reason for culling them is that the ewes can no longer eat the thin bladed grass, and must go to the poorer quality, broader leaved species, which are often the poisonous plants.

The usual number culled will average about 9% old ewes, and 7% which are dry or non-breeders. These shortages with the mortality and other losses, make about a 20% to 30% shortage to make up from the ewe lambs in order to maintain the size of the flock.

Needless to say, good rams should be used to breed up the flocks. Every sheepman wishes to grade up his flocks, and this is only possible by the use of good rams, and the wise selection and culling of breeding ewes.

Usually in open country one buck will be used to around fifty ewes, and

in rougher, more heavily timbered country, one buck to thirty or forty ewes or less.

The bucks should be over 18 months old, and should be in good thrifty condition at breeding time. If the range is not extra good, they should be given some sort of supplementary feed to keep them up. This will pay for itself in the increased vigor, and decreased mortality of the lambs. The percentage of lambs dropped will vary from year to year, and with different flocks, running from 50 to 100 per cent. An 80% lamb crop is very satisfactory to most sheepmen, but in Arizona it has averaged about 60% for the state.

HOW INSECTS MULTIPLY

The importance of insect control is growing every year, as the injurious kinds are many and increase with great rapidity. A single insect may lay from 3000 to 4000 eggs a day, which in a short time hatch other insects that soon lay eggs.

The Japanese beetle is a good example to show the rapid increase and the shortness of generation. It took five New Jersey entomologists five days to find six of these beetles in 1916, while the state was paying 80 cents a quart of 3000, six years later.

Salt is quite a factor in the hog ration and hogs in the field should have access to block salt. One is surprised at first to find how much of this they will lick, especially if they are not used to having it. Salt and water are essential to good feeding, yet it is surprising to find such cheap factors as these frequently omitted or cut down.

IT PAYS TO PLANT EARLY

Our stock being now dormant we can make deliveries at this time. You will find in our Salesyard a full line of Nursery stock, all Arizona-grown.

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