

HANDLING THE YOUNG PECAN TREE

By F. E. Stromquist

In the initial article on pecans two varieties were recommended for Arizona, the Success and Delmas. In Georgia where the pecan industry is almost as valuable as the peach crop the Success has not shown uniform results in filling, but this is not true in Arizona. Both of these varieties have proven their worth here.

Pecans are budded. Since the propagation of these nut trees is a highly specialized industry, it is perhaps better to buy trees for planting from a commercial nursery than to attempt to raise them yourself. When trees of varieties suited to the particular section where the planting is to take place are not available, or sometimes when new varieties are to be propagated, the planter, of course, must be his own nurseryman.

When buying pecan trees from a commercial nursery the nut grower should be careful to specify that the trees should be fibrous, or lateral rooted. Fibrous-rooted pecan trees are a relatively recent departure from the old method in which the pecans were permitted to grow naturally and send down a deep, tap root. Now the up-to-date nurseryman cuts the tap root during the early period of growth in the nursery row and forces out many fibrous, lateral roots. This modified root system insures a greater per cent of live trees when planted to the field. Young pecan trees with long tap roots and few lateral roots usually have a high mortality rate.

Nursery stock should not be dug until the leaves have fallen normally. The early autumn demand for pecan trees has impelled some nurserymen to dig them too early. Cutting off the roots and branches before the sap has gone down for the winter causes an unnecessary shock to the young tree. February is a good time to plant to the field and thus avoid the possibility of getting trees dug too early.

Distance apart in planting varies slightly. 60 by 60 or 50 by 50 feet square with a tree in the center of each square is recommended. When the tree in the center of each square becomes large enough to crowd the others it should be removed. Georgia planters are generally agreed that 60 feet apart (12 trees to an acre) is not too great a distance.

An ideal soil for pecans is deep,



A MAGNIFICENT ORCHARD OF MATURE PECAN TREES.

fertile, well drained, yet by no means dry. In Arizona the roots should not reach the water table, because the tree will not withstand alkali. At the present time the most extensive commercial plantings are in the Salt River and Yuma Valleys where the soil is deep, fertile and the supply of irrigation water certain.

In setting the trees precaution should be taken to prevent the roots from becoming dry. They should be kept moist and carefully covered from the time they are dug in the nursery until finally set. A large hole, fully twice the size actually required to accommodate the roots, should be dug. A quantity of well-rotted compost or manure should be placed in the bottom of the hole and entirely covered with earth before setting the tree. This will furnish abundant plant food and tend to induce the roots to penetrate deeply.

The immediate contact of the roots with manure should be avoided. All broken parts of the roots should be cut off smoothly. Soaking the roots in a bucket of water overnight gives the tree the best chance to live. The tree should be placed in the hole slightly deeper than it stood in the nursery. Spread out the roots carefully and pack firmly with moist surface soil. Keep the soil well irrigated while the young nut orchard is getting a start.

After the young pecan tree is planted to the field it can be cut off to two or three buds, or permitted to grow naturally. Prune the tree by the central leader system. Trees should

form their head from 4½ to 5½ feet from the ground. On the whole, the pecan needs as little pruning as any tree that is grown under cultivation.

If planted 50 feet apart, it is obvious that almost any crop can be grown between the pecan trees. Some nut growers plant cotton, others truck crops. The cultivation given the trees by intercropping will give a very satisfactory tree growth and keep down insects and disease pests. Legumes should be used when the soil needs improving.

Thanks to the long growing season in Arizona, pecans come into bearing much earlier than in other sections of the country. It is not unusual for some trees to produce nuts the second and third year after transplanting from the nursery to the permanent orchard location. However, a crop of any commercial importance cannot be expected until the sixth or seventh year. From then on there will be a gradual increase in the size of the yearly crop until the tree reaches full maturity. In the South Atlantic States, commercial returns are not realized in less than 10 or 12 years.

Prices for Arizona pecans have been high enough in the last few years to give some growers a decidedly optimistic outlook. As high as a dollar a pound for extra choice nuts was paid one grower in the state last year. Because the pecan is a late bloomer, there is little danger from frost in our state and regular crops are reasonably certain. Limited pro-

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PROPER METHODS BRING RESULTS

By M. W. Gibbs

A part of the work of the Poultry Specialist of the U. of A. extension department, is connected with cooperative poultry production in Arizona.

The cooperative work in poultry production in Arizona is organized somewhat as follows: Good representative poultry raisers are secured in all parts of the state who agree to cooperate in carrying out the instructions and advice offered by the poultry department of the University Extension Service. Each of these poultry keepers applies to his own flock the methods of feeding, housing, culling, incubating, brooding, etc., that are recommended by the poultry department.

Each cooperative poultry raiser sends in to the poultry department a monthly report on his individual flock, giving his results in the way of production, cost and returns for the month. The Poultry Specialist sums up all the reports for the month and makes out an average monthly report of them all, comparing it with the same month of the previous year to check up on the progress being made. Reports of these averages and comparisons with some timely

suggestions are mailed, each month, to the poultry keepers cooperating. This enables each one of them to compare his results with the average results of all cooperating.

At present there are thirty-four poultry keepers cooperating with the poultry department under this plan. Evidently they have been greatly benefited by following the advice offered them.

No more convincing evidence of improvement can be offered than that found in the reports of monthly averages. Some of the average results for August of this year are quoted below with corresponding figures for August 1923. The figures speak for themselves.

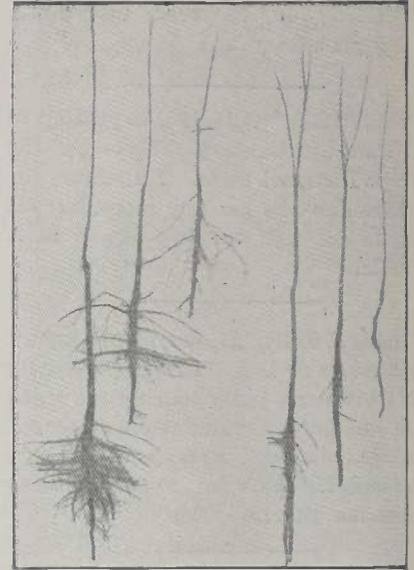
	Aug. 1924	Aug. 1923
Average number of hens per farm	132.3	122.2
Average number of eggs per farm	1585	1060
Average number of eggs per hen	11.9	8.9
Average value of eggs per farm	\$51.78	\$30.76
Average value of eggs per hen	39.1c	25.2c
Average cost of producing dozen eggs	19.8c	31.2c

Since August comes in the season of low production the figures are not high, but they show a great improvement within a years time.

Every poultry keeper should know the best methods of culling out poor producers, mixing and giving feeds in proper proportion, housing, incubating, breeding, marketing ,etc.

The difference between the right way and the wrong may means the difference between profit and loss.

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The New Lateral Rooted Type of Tree. The Old Tap Root Type of Tree.

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duction in this section has made marketing at advantageous prices comparatively easy for the grower. Some pecan growers in Texas report returns ranging from \$75 to \$150 a tree in mature groves.

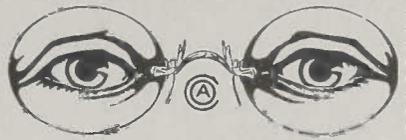
Agricultural experiment station workers in Arizona who have made a study of pecan culture believe that the industry has a promising future in this state.

SALT RIVER LAND VALUE RAISED \$15 PER ACRE

The Associated Arizona Producer states in its issue of September 1, 1924, that the following telegram was received on Aug. 27, by F. W. Reid, president of the Salt River Valley Water User's Association, from J. F. Johnson, State Superintendent of Banks:

"Valuation two hundred forty thousand acres of land coming under the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association project, as reappraised by the office of the superintendent of banks of the State of California, placed at forty-two million dollars."

"This is an increase in value over the appraisal of last year of nearly \$10,000,000. The last appraisal was based on 205,000 acres, and was \$32,700,000. The new appraisal is \$15 per acre higher.



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