

MORE FRUIT SPECIAL

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

A Farm and Home Monthly for
The Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida.

FOUNDED 1886, AT RALEIGH, N. C.



Vol. XXXI. No. 42.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1916.

\$1 a Year; 5c. a Copy

START A HOME ORCHARD THIS FALL

PERHAPS nowhere is there a land that excels the South in natural advantages favorable to fruit-growing; at the same time, we doubt if there are many sections that have failed as we have failed to avail ourselves of the fruit-growing opportunities a kind Nature has given us. With a range of soil and climatic conditions favorable to the

scattering the trees promiscuously about the place. An acre orchard will usually be large enough, and we would urge that all fruit trees be included in this, rather than stuck here and there and allowed to battle with the other crops and often weeds, as is now frequently the case. Choose a piece of good, well-drained land, ad-



GROVE OF PAPER SHELL PECANS ON THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

production of everything from the sub-tropical figs and oranges to apples, we have too often been content with a few apple or peach trees, unsprayed, unpruned, and untended, and, needless to say, unproductive and unprofitable.

Isn't it time for us to change all this and make the South a land of home orchards as well as the land of cotton? Every farm family in the South may have delicious, health-giving fruits the year round if the right steps are taken, and here we propose to emphasize some of these essentials.

1. *Write your state experiment station in regard to varieties.* Soil and climatic conditions naturally vary widely in different parts of the South, and even in different sections of a single state. Consequently any specific advice as to varieties should always be given with the local conditions in mind. Now our state experiment stations have made a special study of this matter, and the very first step in starting an orchard should be to write our station for this information. Then buy only those varieties recommended by the station authorities, and buy direct from nurseries of known responsibility.

2. *Make a real orchard, instead of*

joining the grounds about the house, and make of it an orchard and nothing else.

3. *Prune, spray, cultivate.* But, and this is the most important point of all, let us not forget that an abundance of good fruit demands

the very best of care of the orchard after it is planted. "No spray, no pay," has become an adage among successful fruit growers, and it is as true of the small home orchard as it is of the commercial orchard. If your orchard has been producing small, wormy, rotten fruit, get from your county agent or state horticulturist instructions for spraying, and you will be surprised at the fine fruit you can grow when these instructions have been followed. And pruning and the right sort of cultivation are scarcely less important in making the orchard a real orchard.

Good fruit the year round should be the aim of every farmer worthy of the name, and the way to get it is to plant an orchard of the right varieties and then look after it. If you haven't a good home orchard, there's no better time than right now to prepare for one.

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