

★ FRUIT, TRUCK AND VEGETABLES ★

Now is the Time to Plant Pecan Trees.

Get Good Trees, Set Them Out Carefully, and Take Care of Them
—How Large Areas of Waste Lands Could Be Made Profitable.

Messrs. Editors: November and December is the best time to transplant pecan trees, if not too dry. If dry, water the young trees freely when put out.

Be sure and get good trees of reliable budded, or grafted stock, some of the numerous, large paper-shelled varieties. The Stewart, Russell, May Russell, Van Deman and many others are good. It is best to put out several kinds, as one may do better on your soil than another. While the native pecan trees grow as far north as Missouri, central Illinois and Indiana, I am not sure they yet produce the improved kinds that will thrive well as far north as middle Tennessee.

It is time and money wasted to plant any but the best kinds and good thrifty stock, too. Have holes dug ready before unpacking trees, meantime keep them in a cool shady place or cellar, or "heel" them in the shade. Do not let them get dry.

On clay or sandy soils, dig holes two feet in diameter, three feet deep, or deeper, if need be. On rich, alluvial, moist bottoms, a crow-bar, or post-hole digger will usually do as well, as pecan trees have few, if any, side roots. If well rooted, make holes large enough to spread roots in natural shape.

Do not use fresh manure of any kind next the tree. Half a bushel of well rotted manure may be well used about the tree after setting, or any kind of green manure, if not put next the tree.

Trim off smooth with a sharp knife all ends of broken or mangled roots and branches. If much top (usually very little, if any) trim it out closely. Set the trees in the earth a little lower than they were in nursery.

If set in orchard shape, plant them 35 to 50 feet apart each way; if a single row, about 40 feet apart is a good rule. The natural habitat of pecans is near streams, on low lands, and they thrive best there, though grown often on sandy or dry lands. It is said they will grow wherever hickory thrives. A large post, or 2x8 plank set in the hole a few inches from the tree on the southwest side, extending six feet above the ground, will shade the tree first two or three seasons, and prevent drying out in hot sun.

Do not fail, under any circumstances, to mulch the trees heavily in the spring. Put a foot of old straw, corn stalks, or weeds, over a space at least four feet wide, and two or three feet from the tree out in all directions. If a dry season, water freely until well rooted. It pays.

Good trees cost, one year old, 50 to 75 cents; two years to three years old, 75 cents to \$1.50. I would advise medium-sized trees. Large ones are hard to make live, and you have to wait too long for small ones to bear. There is a great difference in trees, so be careful whom you buy from. Trees budded from bearing trees should bear some in three to five years, and good crops in seven to fifteen years. I saw a seedling tree in Mississippi twenty-eight years old which bore \$120.00 worth of nuts, and the owner expected to cut \$100.00 worth of scions from it the same season. Still, not one seedling in a hundred is worth a cent.

I notice many people, in setting pecans, choose their finest lands, and leave the banks of streams open to

weeds and brush. The pecan will thrive best along the streams, and millions of acres are now lying waste along the water courses which could be planted in these fine food-furnishing trees. If the waters overflow the trees a few days at a time, it will do no harm if trees are protected from driftwood, etc., by strong posts on the up-stream side of the trees. I would set them on south and west sides of stream, as a rule, so the shade will be cast in the stream instead of on meadows or pastures about the trees.

Plant plenty of pecans, then care for them. They will pay well and care for you in old age. If you are not willing to set and care for them thoroughly and right, do not put money in any kind of fruit or nut trees. It is only wasted.

A. M. WORDEN.

Coffee Co., Tenn.

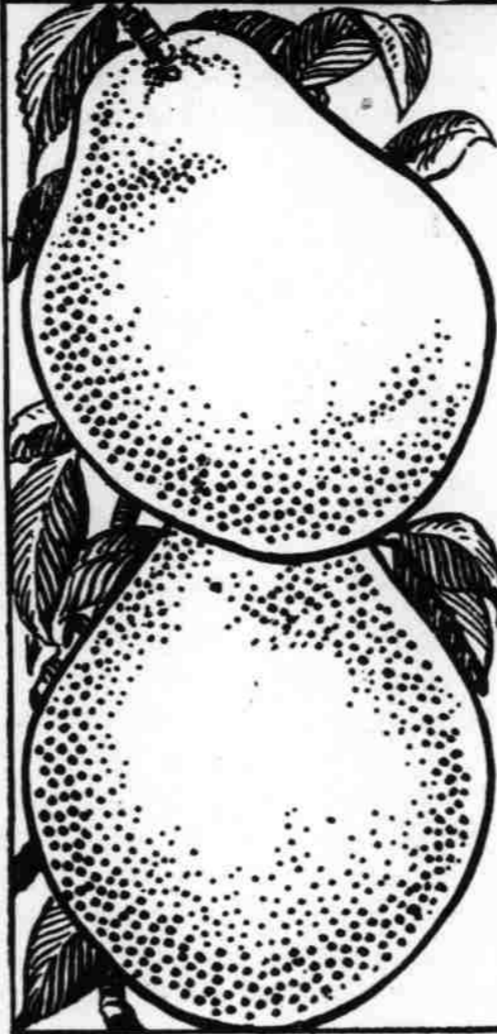
Pruning Maxims.

1. Start the tree right.
2. Do not cut out large limbs.
3. Keep your tools sharp.
4. Never prune in frosty weather.
5. Never leave stubs in cutting of limbs.
6. Prune annually, but never heavily.
7. Wounds heal most rapidly in the spring.
8. Heavy pruning conduces to wood growth.
9. Never use a hatchet for removing suckers.
10. Avoid injuring the cambium in any way.
11. A severe heading-back will renew the tops of old peach trees.
12. In transplanting cut back top and root.
13. Do not start all main limbs at the same height.
14. Keep the tree free of suckers.
15. Summer pruning induces fruitfulness.
16. Paint over the larger wounds.
17. Trees are delicate structures and require careful handling.
18. Never slit the bark, bore holes, or drive nails into trees.
19. Never allow stock to prune your trees.
20. The orchard is not a profitable source of firewood.—Exchange.

The Damage Done by Forest Fires.

Since the forests form such a valuable part of our everyday life, there will be a loss which can not be met by any other material if they are all destroyed. Yet, in the United States the people are destroying the forests three times as fast as they grow. Much of this destruction is caused by waste in manufacture, but the greater waste is in the forests themselves. People carelessly allow fires to burn through the woods, and in many parts of the country permit sheep and cattle to destroy young growth by grazing. Leaving out of account the great forest fires that each year burn millions of dollars worth of property and kill many people, much could be done to stop the little fires altogether. Most persons think that the small fire which runs over the ground in the woods does no harm, because they can see little or no effect on the standing trees; but each of these fires kills the young trees that should be growing up to make the new forest when the old ripe forest is cut.—Bristow Adams.

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