

# Sugar Cane as a Staple Industry in Florida

By F. W. Johnson

Dame Nature has favored all sections of our country, so that one or more staple crops can be relied upon at all times, and while many of these industries have lain dormant for years before their true values have been determined, in no section has the industry of sugar cane growing been neglected as much as in Florida, when it should be the leading staple industry, from the fact that a crop failure has never been known, and no other crop offers as good returns for labor and money invested.

Then, again, the demands for syrup and sugar are greater than the American supply, as evidenced by the enormous imports each year, thus proving that a good market at good prices awaits those who will give this industry their attention.

As to the possibility of growing sugar cane in all sections of Florida, successfully, one can see in every section small patches growing luxuriantly and with a minimum cost for labor and fertilizer.

One of the noticeable facts is that there are a number of different kinds of sugar cane grown and, strange to say, they all do well, regardless of soil conditions, whether planted on sandy, clay, loam or muck ground. It is true the yield will be greater in some soils than in others. This may be due to intense cultivation and heavy fertilization. Still, the fact remains that sugar cane is a marked success in Florida. This is, to a great extent, due to the climatic conditions, as nowhere in the United States will be found a country so favorable for sugar cane cultivation as Florida. We have an ideal climate, with sufficient moisture, and a scarcity of insect life that is marked.

For the benefit of those intending planting sugar cane the following table of costs can be relied upon as being the average cost for three years, and has been compiled from reports of those who are today considered an authority on this question. Assuming that the land has been cleared and ready for the crop we have, figuring on the basis of one acre:

Four tons of seed cane at \$4 per ton .....	\$16.00
Breaking ground and planting....	12.00
Four plowings at \$1.50 each....	6.00
Fertilizer and applying same....	20.00
Stripping, topping and cutting 25 tons of cane, average crop per acre 50c per ton.....	10.00
Hauling cane to mill, 20 tons at 50c per ton.....	10.00

Total cost per acre for first year .....\$74.00

On the second and third years there is no seed cane to buy, nor the expense of planting, which effects a saving of \$28.00 per acre, so we have a net cost for the second and third years of \$46.00 each year, making a total cost as follows:

First year .....	\$74.00
Second year .....	46.00
Third year .....	46.00

Total cost three years....\$166.00 or an average cost of \$55.66 2-3 per year; thus delivering the crop of 20 tons per acre to the mill at a cost of less than \$3 per ton.

Now, as to the value of this cane, this depends entirely on the amount of juice extracted. With animal and small power mills, the extraction rarely exceeds 50 per cent, while with mills capable of extracting an average of 75 per cent, we have 40,000 pounds of cane, with 75 per cent extraction would yield 30,000 pounds of juice at an average of 9 degrees Beaume. To reduce this to 36 degrees Beaume syrup will require 80-91 per cent, or 24,273 pounds of water to be evaporated, leaving 5,727 pounds of syrup, or 572 gallons, at a gross delivered cost of 10c per gallon. In other words, we have produced in three years on one acre of land 1,716 gallons of syrup at a cost for three years of \$166.00.

In reference to cost of converting this sugar cane into syrup, will say this will be covered fully in another article. The reader can readily see by this what the average cost and results are from sugar cane, and, as stated above, there is no other staple crop offering such attractive profits as found in sugar cane which will, in the near future, be the leading industry in this State.

### WHAT MAY BE PLANTED IN APRIL IN FLORIDA.

Doubtless many of the new settlers are wondering what can be planted to the best advantage in Florida, in April. For central Florida, beans, cantaloupes, cowpeas, cucumbers, eggplant, Irish potatoes lettuce, onion plants, parsley, parsnips, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet potatoes, turnips and tomatoes are good.

For southern Florida, beans, cowpeas, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, potatoes, tomatoes, onion plants, peppers and pumpkins. To this list may be added many more of the early vegetables which are planted in the early gardens in the North.

# Big Increase Shown in Citrus Fruit Crop

One Thousand Per Cent Gain in Ten Years—St. Lucie County the Center of Indian River Oranges and Grapefruit

The citrus fruit industry has grown so rapidly in St. Lucie county that even the old residents do not fully realize what an important factor it now is in the advancement of this section.

Fifteen years ago there were no oranges or grapefruit being shipped out of this county and ten years ago there were not more than 1,500 boxes a year shipped from here.

A conservative estimate of the fruit grown in St. Lucie county this year and that will be shipped before May 15, places the number of boxes of oranges and grapefruit at 150,000, with a probable output of 100,000 boxes of oranges and 50,000 boxes of grapefruit, although the percentage of grapefruit is undoubtedly larger than that.

With the great number of additions to the groves already established and the many new groves that have been planted in the past two or three years, these figures will easily be doubled in the next two years and it will not be very long before St. Lucie county will be shipping half a million boxes of citrus fruits yearly.

Probably the largest number of boxes of fruit to be shipped by an individual or one concern will be shipped by Mr. Eli Morgan, whose grove is one of the oldest in the county. He will ship from 9,000 to 10,000 boxes of fruit this winter.

Probably one of the largest groves in the county is that of the Allapatahachee Citrus Fruit Company, which is located on Ten Mile Creek, about seven miles from Fort Pierce. This grove now covers over seventy acres and has many young trees, which are just starting to bear or have not yet begun to bear. This season about 6,000 boxes of choice fruit will be shipped from it. Fourteen years ago, when this grove was started, Manager Williams says there was very little fruit raised in this county and none being shipped. This company now has a veritable village on the plantation, there being a fine residence for the manager, an immense packing house, large barns for the big auto trucks, wagons, stock, tools and farm implements, etc., and about a dozen houses for the employees.

Another large grove that has been very successful is that owned by Mr. Dan McCarty, whose father was one of the most ambitious developers in this section and who did much toward interesting men of means in this county. Mr. McCarty is now installing one of the most expensive irrigation plants ever put into a grove in this state. The main pipes leading from the pump house are six inches in diameter and the outlying pipes are four inches. These are steel pipes and will enable him to flood every section of the sixty-acre grove in case of a drought.

Along the Indian River, north and south for a distance of twenty miles in each direction, there are many good groves. At Viking, Oslo, Vero, Quay, Wabasso, Sebastian and Roseland on the north are found some of the best groves and the finest fruit. At Eldred, Ankon, Walton, Eden, Jensen and Waveland on the south there are a number of good groves and some choice fruit is shipped from that section.

At Fort Drum, Okeechobee and other sections of the west side of the county there are several large groves and more are being constantly developed.

Modern methods of packing and shipping are now employed by the majority of the groves and the packing houses and equipment represent an investment of many thousands of dollars.

Indian river fruit has always been famous for its delicious flavor and all indications point to this county being the center of this great industry and the leader in its output in the near future.—Ft. Pierce News.

### AN ACTIVE CITRUS DEMAND

### DELIVERIES LAST WEEK DOUBLE THE WEEK PREVIOUS

Many Shippers Are Turning Their Attention to Other Commodities—Prices Probably Will Remain Firm for the Season.

### FLORIDA CITRUS SHIPMENTS.

Cars moved last week.....	567
Cars moved week before last....	272
Total cars moved to last Sat....	17,744

Jacksonville, Fla., March 27.—The market on citrus fruits is again looking up. The movement last week was over twice as heavy as the week previous, a total of 567 cars moving for the week. Several cars of late Valencias went to northern markets and the demand for this variety as well as other varieties of oranges and grapefruit is fair. Most every car of fruit was sold while rolling, leaving very few cars at diverting points. The demand for oranges exceeds the demand for grapefruit despite the fact that there is only ten or fifteen per cent of the grapefruit crop left in the state.

The large distributing firms of the state are not giving their attention to the citrus fruit deal, as they are deep in the tomato, celery and cabbage deal and these crops also are moving freely. Tomatoes and celery are commanding very good prices on almost every market. It is believed that with warm weather in the north that citrus fruit will take on a new lease of life and prices will be considerably better and fruit in good demand in all large markets.

There is no doubt, it is thought by many shippers, that oranges will remain reasonably firm for the balance of the season, as the crop now moving is of excellent quality, running mostly to brights and good stock. While it is anticipated that other fruit may come in to take the place of grapefruit, which will materially decrease the consumption, yet it appears to be the consensus of opinion that prices will remain about the same as they are now, maybe advancing a little for good grade and pack.

Mrs. Muggins—Your husband seems very vigorous. The older he gets, the stronger he grows.

Mrs. Muggins—Yes; but like his pipe.—Philadelphia Record.

# Schnarr's Insecticide SPRAY

**Kills** Every White Fly Larvæ, Scale, Red Spider and Rust Mite that are hit. **Removes** sooty mold completely and does not harm the tenderest growth. **Insures** clean, healthy trees and bright fruit. **Satisfactory** Results Guaranteed or Money Refunded.

State Agents for the Famous

## Bean Power Sprayers and Hand Pumps

State Agents for GRASSELLI'S ARSENATE of LEAD AND LIME SULPHUR SOLUTION

**J. SCHNARR & CO., - - Orlando, Fla.**

**REDSTONE & SON**  
Manufacturers of  
**ROUGH and DRESSED LUMBER**  
VERO FLORIDA