

# THE MANGO : : :

The mango is without question the best of all tropical fruits. Its improved strains excel both in flavor, richness, beauty and aroma. The best peach is insipid compared with the best mango, lacking in richness, and watery. It is like comparing "canned" fruit to old-fashioned preserves, put up "pound for pound." Then there is no fruit which possesses the delicacy and quality of perfume when ripe than some of these do, and there can be no fruit more beautiful than some of the golden yellow mangoes with their brilliant carmine cheeks. Their rough rind makes them good shippers, as the fact that they have long been shipped from Bombay to London proves. The tree is a very vigorous grower, thriving on land too wet for almost any other fruit tree, or too high, dry and poor. Its tough, leathery foliage and springy, elastic branches enable it to stand wind well, and the fact that its fruit is all formed and matured before the windy season renders it well adapted to use as a windbreak for citrus and other trees that have to hold their fruit during the autumn and early winter. The trees generally commence to bloom in January, and bloom along at irregular intervals often into April, some few occurring as late as June. Not all of this fruit sets or reaches maturity, owing to the attacks of the fungus known as wither-tip, which is so destructive in citrus orchards.

A recently published bulletin from the agricultural department on this subject details the investigations made and conclusions drawn, and everybody interested in the matter should at once send for a copy. It seems that this wither-tip fungus militates against the crop in all countries where this fruit is grown, and wherever there is much damp, rainy weather during the blooming and early fruiting period the crop is damaged or destroyed before it can mature. As the fruit gets larger and the skin thicker and tougher, it is more resistant to the entry of the spores, so that if any one of the various sets of inflorescences that have occurred from January to April (or June) happens to hit a comparatively dry time, the fruit gets a start enough to pull through and make a crop. This generally occurs so as to make the crop come in June, but last year we had fruit in April from January bloom, a larger and more general crop in June, and some in August and again in October, the last from June bloom, and mostly confined to the Sundersha variety. On the whole, however, the crop was very short, almost a failure with most of the best imported varie-

ties, owing mainly to rainy weather and the consequent wither-tip. For some unaccountable reason the best of all, the Mulgoba variety, did not even bloom. In this section but one or two trees bloomed at all, and then only a chance branch on a tree. This year all varieties are blooming profusely, and while we are having altogether too much rain and heavy dew to give the trees much chance unassisted, many are following the directions advised in the department bulletin, and we look for a good crop of fruit in spite of the natural conditions. So far all trees sprayed are setting and holding fruit nicely, and conditions are the same as the past two seasons, in which the crop was a practical failure. The destruction of the crop so frequently has led to much restricted planting of mango trees of late years, and now they are being generally used as a windbreak all around groves of the winter varieties of avocado, or citrus trees. If they fail to set a crop, they still serve as a most effective windbreak for the grove, and in case they do make a crop it is off before the season of stormy winds. In these past three trying seasons several varieties that had been overshadowed in popularity by others, are coming to the front because they make a crop in spite of the fungus, when the trees beside them succumb.

There are as many varieties of mango as there are of any other fruit that is propagated by grafting or budding and they vary greatly in size, appearance and flavor. Some are specially valuable for cooking (like the Sundersha), while some are considered great keepers (like the Alphonso). The latter can be gathered and allowed to ripen in the house; in India they say that they keep them two months in a cool place after gathering.

The finest of all is the Mulgoba, yet it seems to be the most uncertain producer. The department bulletin reported it to appear quite as resistant to the fungus as the other sorts. This may be so in a general way. I would modify it by saying that it is as resistant as the average. But then if a tree fails to bloom at all as they did last year there is no hope of any fruit. However, it makes a good windbreak, and it is so fine that people who know it will always want to have them about.

Just a word to the new settler: The mango and avocado require just the same treatment as do the citrus trees, will grow on the same soil, planted the same distance, cultivated the same way, and fertilized in the same man-

ner. The latter begins to bear as soon as the grapefruit, or often one year earlier, and it grows faster. It will yield as much fruit as a grapefruit the same time and hold it almost as long, and the fruit will sell for from two to three times as much as the grapefruit will. When the tree gets to bearing crops it requires about twice as much fertilizer as the grapefruit, but then that is a small item. The cause of it is very likely the difference in the nutritive value of the two fruits, the grapefruit being little else than water, while the avocado is almost equal to its weight in eggs.

The mango is the ideal windbreak to be planted all around the grove, trees set 10 to 15 feet apart, or, better, a double row 20 feet apart breaking joints, the two rows 10 to 15 feet apart. The tree will not stand as much cold as the citrus trees, but with the aid of the crude oil heaters there is no reason in the world why they cannot be grown safely in the latitude of Tampa.

In California in the latitude of Charleston, they had fruit last summer, I am told, on both these trees, even after passing through the severest freeze that has ever visited the state, and the demand for nursery stock is so great that trees that here are hard to sell at \$1.50 each there readily command \$3.50. If we fail to make the most of our advantages in this line and let California with her tremendous handicap get ahead of us on the cream of this new industry, it is because we are too slow, too dead-slow.

Florida will ship a bumper potato crop and get a bumper pile of money.

—Times-Union.

## SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT FLORIDA.

According to the thirtieth census Florida farm lands increased in value over 204 per cent from 1900 to 1910, with less than one-eighth of its area under cultivation. In the percentage of increase in the value of farm property Florida ranks eighth among the states; in the value of farm buildings she ranks seventh, in livestock, ninth.

According to a recent statement of the per capita deposits in national banks it stood second of the thirteen southern states. Texas came first with \$40.09 for each inhabitant, and Florida second with \$39.11 deposits per capita.

More than five million dollars' worth of fish are shipped from Florida waters every year.

According to the Industrial Index Florida sends out \$50,000,000 worth of phosphate every year.

The vegetable and garden products for 1911-12 was \$8,056,685, as against \$6,825,912 in 1909-10.

The value of the fruit products for 1909-10 was \$5,905,727, while the value of the same products for 1911-12 was \$9,689,774, showing a gain of \$3,784,074 above the value of the crop for 1909-10.

## ABIDING BY THE DECISION.

In a Connecticut court not long ago an old farmer was the defendant in a suit for a piece of land, and his lawyer had been making a strong fight for it.

Then the plaintiff's attorney began his argument.

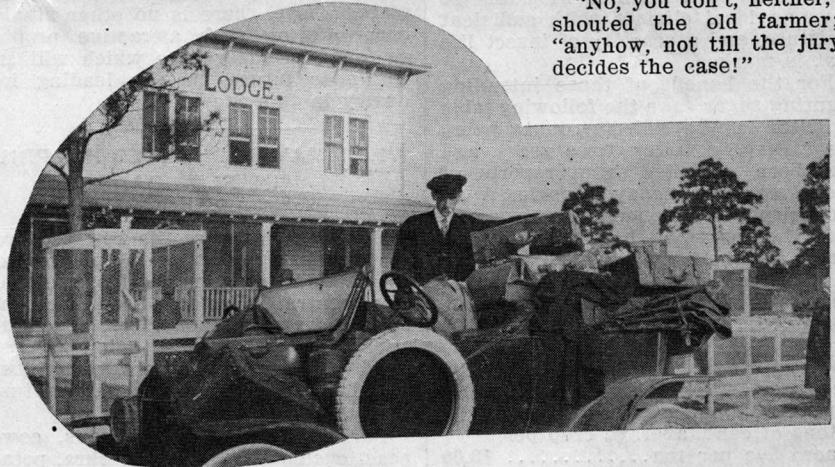
"May it please the court, I take the ground—"

The old farmer jumped to his feet excitedly: "What's that? What's that?" he exclaimed.

The judge called him to order.

"May it please the court," began the attorney again, not noticing the interruption, "I take the ground—"

"No, you don't, neither," shouted the old farmer; "anyhow, not till the jury decides the case!"



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