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GROWING *Fruits and Nuts*

**IN THE SOUTHERN
GREAT PLAINS**



Farmers' Bulletin No. 2087

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sui men. The fruit is much like a date in shape and size. It begins to ripen slightly earlier than the Li and the Lang, and is more highly flavored.

Lang. The fruit is pear shaped and somewhat smaller than that of the Li. At Woodward, Okla., the trees have grown more rapidly than those of the other varieties and have borne fruit the first or second year. Li and Sui men often do not bear until the third or fourth year after planting. Lang is, therefore, probably the best variety to plant, as a first venture with this crop (figs. 9 and 10).

Li. This variety has the largest fruit of the three varieties and is the last to ripen. The fruit is nearly spherical with a diameter of about 2 inches. In some localities the Li has yielded more fruit than other varieties. The skin of the Li is inclined to crack and the fruit molds badly if the weather is rainy at ripening time. Occasionally the fruit may be almost worthless.

Persimmons

There are many native persimmon groves scattered along the eastern edge of the plains. Some of these bear abundant crops of good fruit, others bear fruit of poor quality, and occasionally one bears little or no fruit.

A grove, to yield fruit, must contain both fruiting and pollen-bearing trees. If trees are all of the fruiting sort, wood from a pollen-bearing tree grafted to a few trees will overcome the barrenness. If trees are all pollen-bearing, or if they are fruiting trees with a poor quality of fruit, they may be improved by grafts from better varieties (figs. 11 and 12).

Perhaps the best variety of persimmon for the southern Great Plains is the Early Golden. It is 2 to 4 times the size of the average native persimmon, ripens before frost, and has flesh of fine texture and good flavor (fig. 13). It has a smooth skin and a very attractive reddish golden color. Other good varieties are Hicks, Iona Market, Josephine, and Garretson. Kawakami, a hybrid originating in northeastern Texas, has proved hardy at Woodward, Okla., but has produced only light crops.

Along the extreme southeastern edge of the plains some varieties of the Japanese persimmon may prove hardy enough to withstand the winter temperatures. The trees are small and ornamental, and the fruit is 2 to 3 inches in diameter. Some of the varieties handled by nurseries in the adjacent territory may be worthy of trial.

Grapes

Grapes are one of the most reliable and successful fruits for the sandy soils over a large portion of the southern Great Plains. On the heavier soils most of the varieties do not do so well and many may fail (fig. 14). Grapes should be planted on sandy soils if possible.

A line drawn through Meade, Kans., Dalhart, Tex., and Tucumcari, N. Mex., divides the southern Great Plains into sections differing in suitability for grape varieties. North of this line most of them may often winterkill. Alpha and Beta varieties are the only ones suggested for trial in the area north of this line. Occasional late spring freezes may kill any of the varieties of grapes back to the ground,



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FIGURE 9.—A well-formed tree of Lang jujube with a heavy crop.

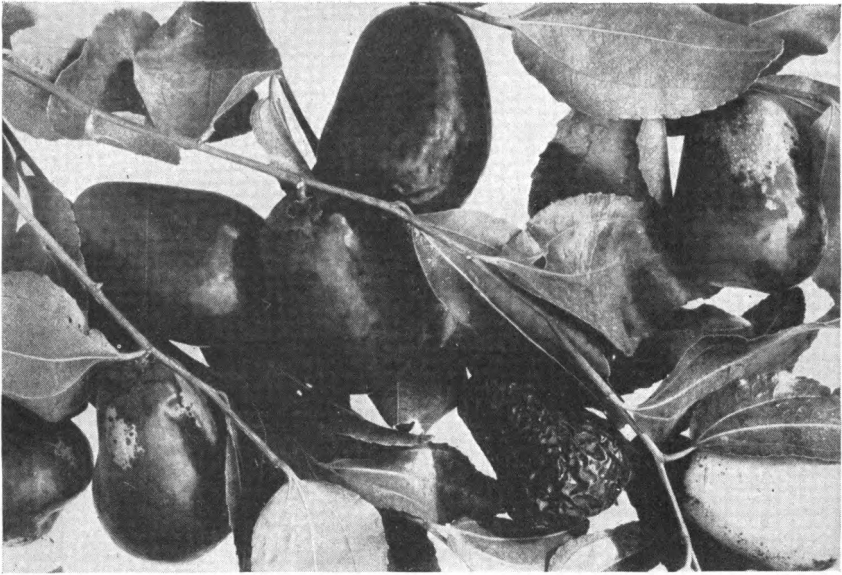


FIGURE 10.—Fruit of Lang jujube. (Courtesy of Dr. C. O. Erlanson.)

even in the southern part. If properly treated, however, this need not cause more than one season's loss of crop.

Only a few of the leading varieties and their most outstanding characteristics can be mentioned here. These are listed in the approximate order of ripening.

VARIETIES FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN PORTIONS

Beacon. The fruit resembles Concord, but the berries are larger and the yields are much higher. It keeps well but does not stand rough handling as the berries shatter badly from the bunch. It is a good quality, general purpose grape for home use. Use—table and juice. (Fig. 15.)

Caco. Vigorous and productive, good quality, red grape, where it does well. At Tucumcari, N. Mex., it is one of the leading varieties. At Woodward, Okla., it usually shrivels and does not ripen properly in hot dry weather. Use—table.

Extra. Vigorous and apparently adapted to a wider range of conditions than any other variety listed here. It is worthy of trial on sandy soil throughout the area. At Lawton, Okla., this variety has done well on relatively heavy soil. At Woodward, Okla., it has not. This variety is now being grown rather extensively and is well liked in Wheeler County, Tex., where it is grown for local markets. Fruit medium size, black. Use—table and juice. (Fig. 16.)

Carman. Medium size, good quality black grape. Use—table and juice.

Ellen Scott. Vine vigorous, bears large, compact clusters of medium-sized, violet-colored grapes; quality of fruit excellent, especially on the drier western edge of the plains; inclined to black rot in more humid climates. Use—table and juice. (Fig. 17.)



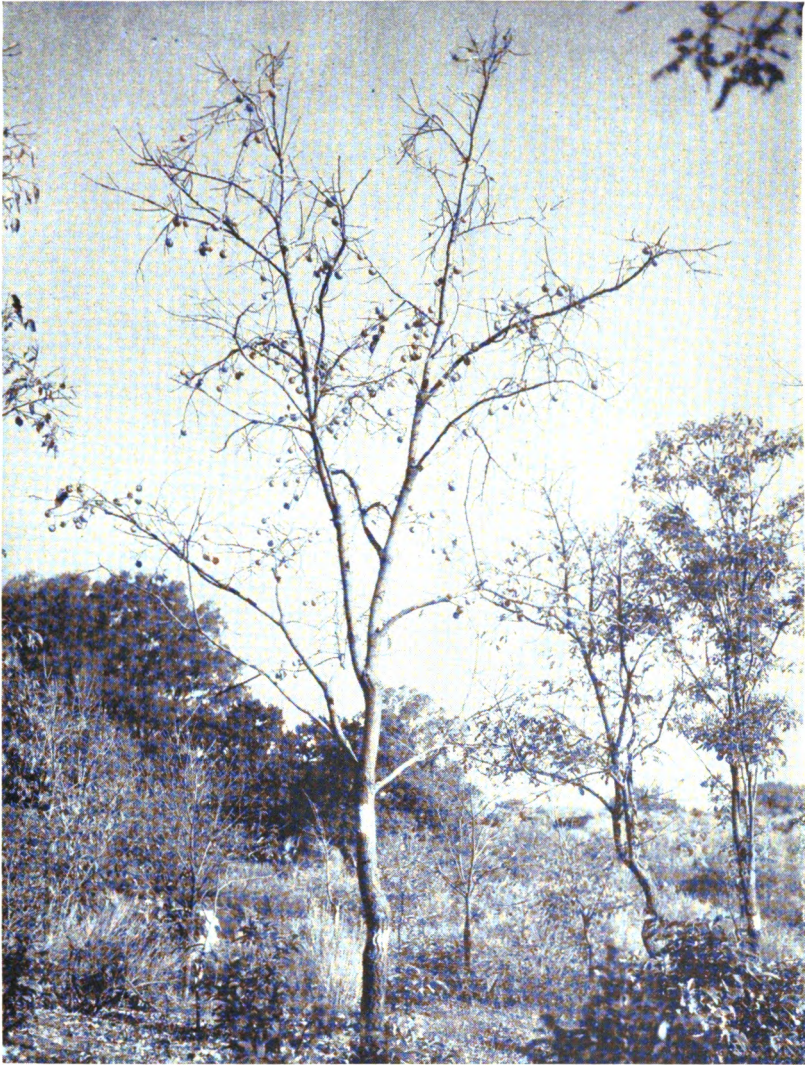
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FIGURE 11.—Top graft on a young persimmon tree after one season's growth.

Armalaga. A high quality, green grape; inclined to be somewhat tender. Use—table.

Edna. A vigorous, high yielding, green grape; quality not quite as high as Armalaga, but probably should be substituted for that variety on the western edge of the plains, where it seems to be better adapted. Edna should be planted near Carman, Armalaga, or Ellen Scott for pollination. Use—table.

Catawba. A medium-sized, red grape of high quality; worthy of trial on sandy soils over entire area. This is the only variety of



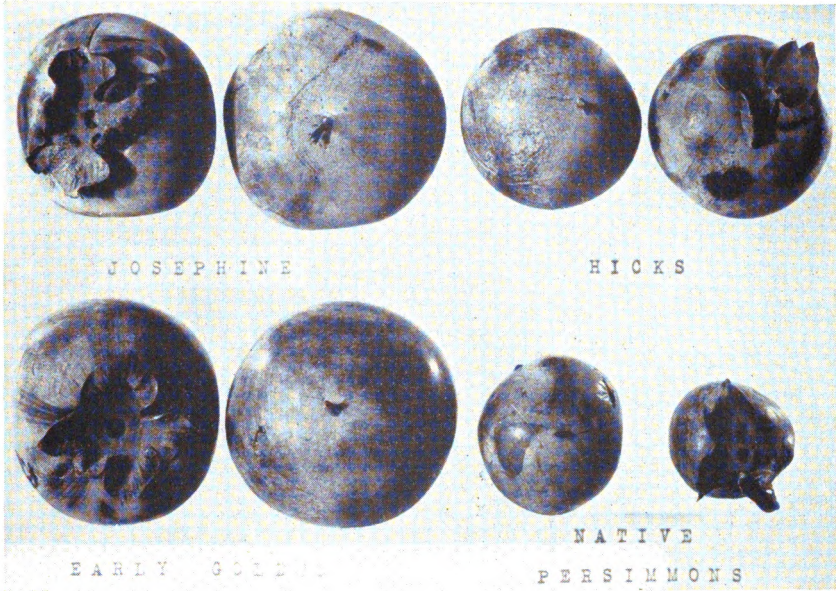
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FIGURE 12.—A native persimmon grafted with an improved variety—the graft is established and fruiting.

superior quality that has shown any promise as far north and west as Garden City, Kans. It ripens late and can be kept a long time in storage. Use—table and juice.

Last Rose. The vine grows with medium vigor, but it bears large, very compact clusters of fruit. Quality of fruit is not especially high, but this grape is worth planting, as it is the latest maturing in this list. Plant near Carman, Armalaga, Ellen Scott, or Extra for pollination. Use—table and juice.

Concord. Concord is not recommended. While it is one of the most widely known and generally planted varieties of grapes, it is



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FIGURE 13.—The size of three varieties of persimmons compared with that of local native persimmons.



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FIGURE 14.—Experimental vineyard at the Southern Great Plains Station, Woodward, Okla.