

Oliver

My first observing of the Oliver was at a Mango Forum Variety Committee meeting. By its shape I would judge that it has some Saigon in its ancestry. The tree, according to its owner and his neighbor, was a good bearer. The fruit has a little pink cheek, very small seed and a deep apricot colored flesh. Quality is very good. It seems to fruit about the same season as the Haden. One peculiarity noticed was that fruit picked when just beginning to ripen were slightly withered or shriveled when completely ripened. However, this in no way harmed the quality.

Edward

The Edward is not a new mango but most people are not acquainted with it and I believe it deserves mentioning. I was not greatly impressed with the fruit until the season of 1949 because the fruit does not have the brilliant red cheek as does the Haden. Most of the fruit, however, do have a slight pink blush and when fully ripe the yellow and pink takes on a glossy luster.

The fruit is shaped similarly to the common "Turpentine" but is larger. The seed is very small and usually flat. The flesh is of firm texture all the way to

the seed and is of excellent quality, with somewhat of a creamy flavor. The Edward usually have only one fruit to the blossom stem. They ripen simultaneously with the Haden and are best flavored when fully mature.

I have trees growing several miles west of Delray Beach in the "flatwoods" where most people say that mangos will not bear. Trees in this locality, although only five feet tall, had two dozen fruit on them. The fruit were very clean, whereas Hadens grown on the same farm were so spotted that one could not recognize them as Hadens.

Pettigrew

I received my graft wood about five years ago from Mr. Asa Pillsbury and Carlos Earle of Palma Solo. The leaves of the tree are slender, reminding one somewhat of peach leaves. The tree is not a heavy fruiter but is quite consistent. The fruit mature about two months later than the Hadens, and weigh from one to two pounds. They have no pink blush, but remain green with only a slight yellowish tinge when ripe. The quality is excellent.

The Pettigrew could be recommended for local commercial marketing and home use only.

MONTHLY MEETINGS ON TROPICAL AND SUB-TROPICAL FRUITS

M. U. MOUNTS

County Agricultural Agent

West Palm Beach

When I started my work as County Agent in Palm Beach County some twenty-five years ago, I found very little interest in Tropical Fruits. Unfortunately, at the time, the major interest in all agricultural activities was to transpose such interests into acreage

sales and much of the interest and activities of those early days were of such a transient nature.

The only plantings of these fruits were limited to a few small banana and pineapple plantings that were destined to be with us only a short time. There were also many dooryard plantings of seedling mango trees in the urban centers of the East Coast. Many of these seedlings were to be eventually ex-

hibited as possible commercial varieties at some of our meetings of the Horticultural enthusiasts. Other tropical fruits were largely limited to specimen plantings on Palm Beach estates and, to leap to the opposite pole of the social and economic world, some of the best of the more unusual specimens were found in the colored sections of our East Coast towns, planted there, no doubt, by former citizens of Nassau and other West Indian islands who were employed on some of the estates.

After the crash of our acreage and subdivision era of the middle twenties, the problem of producing food for many persons was of vital concern and this problem carried over in accelerated importance into the national financial crisis. These were critical times with community gardens and the other temporary stop-gaps of this period all too familiar with all of us. These conditions stressed the importance of the old, but sound, live-at-home program for farmers and for many trades people. We began to urge plantings of tropical fruits as part of the landscape design for suburban and farm homes. Our local nurseries had little to offer in these varieties during this period and progress was slow and, at times, disheartening. As in many agricultural developments the importance of a long period of time is still an essential to the results that are yet to be attained. As could be expected, interest began to develop and a few of our horticulturally minded citizens began to propagate seedling tropical fruits and to bud and graft a few varieties, notably mangos. The interest of such growers as Lawrence Zill, David Sturrock and James Miner was of great help in the furtherance of our efforts. In 1943 we were discussing our plans for extension activities with Miss Olga Kent, who was then Home Demonstration Agent in

Palm Beach County. Miss Kent suggested it might be worth while to consider a Tropical Fruit Group to meet monthly. I had been considering such a program and with the verbal suggestion from Miss Kent and her offer to help we initiated the first meetings. Except for a four month period during this immediate past summer, the group has met regularly the first Tuesday night of each month. Programs for the first few years were exclusively concerned with Tropical Fruits, but about two years ago, at the suggestion of Mr. Rudolph Tomasello, we began to diversify our programs and include other Horticultural activities.

During these years of monthly programs we have had excellent assistance and advice from the gentlemen previously mentioned and, also, from Mr. Jack Faircloth and Mr. John R. Wilson, both of West Palm Beach; Mr. Irl Garnett, of Hypoluxo, as well as many other interested individuals. After each program we would have a question and answer period and these men could be depended upon to assist with this important part of the meetings. In fact, some of our meetings were discussion meetings, with no formal speech.

Dr. Geo. D. Ruehle and the staff of the Sub-tropical Experiment Station have given liberally of their time to assist our program, as has Mr. R. A. Carlton, Agricultural Agent, of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad Company.

Attendance has varied from a low of 15 and has consistently averaged about forty.

Some of our programs took the form of fruit displays and people come to see many seedling varieties exhibited. Our members would bring products from their own yards and on many occasions would bring surplus seedlings they had developed and distribute them. We have had lectures on varieties, propaga-

tion, insect and disease controls, pruning, wind breaks, soil amendments, cold protection, and, in fact, about everything we could think of and get someone to discuss.

We have never collected dues or fees and the only list of members is our mailing list. Those who attend with some regularity are notified the week prior to the meeting and our local press

has been liberal in announcing meetings, programs and speakers.

We expect to continue these meetings, but believe we will no longer have summer meetings. We believe a few months abstinence during the summer will be good for the enthusiasm of our audience and, certainly, will be restful to those of us who are responsible for these programs.

MARKETING FRESH LYCHEES

DEWITT EATON

Sarasota

That a paper covering the marketing of fresh Lychees is written at this time is quite remarkable from the entirely different points of view. First, it is surprising that it is being written at so late a date, since the first Lychee tree now living was planted in Florida, according to record, in 1907 or forty-three years ago. That is a long time between original planting and commercial marketing. On the other hand considering that the first small commercial planting of this delicious fruit made at Laurel, Florida, was established in 1940, only ten years ago, it is indeed interesting that in so short a time a discussion of marketing this product could take place. However, the astonishingly rapid expansion of plantings lends validity to the problem.

To Wm. R. Grove of Laurel, E. L. Wirt of Babson Park and Judge C. E. Ware of Clearwater credit must be given for first visualizing the Lychee as the basis for a profitable agricultural enterprise. Under the leadership of these men and with their enthusiasm, the industry has grown in a few short years to a point where the problem of marketing the fresh fruit must be considered and the future planned

for. From this time forward, the available quantities of fresh fruit will make the industry important enough to warrant our seeking sound and progressive marketing methods. During the past few months many unsolicited articles about the Lychee have appeared in newspapers and periodicals. At least three references have been noted in motion pictures. The fruit this summer received wide national distribution through the medium of a "Fruit of the Month Club" and many retail stores quickly sold their supply of fresh Lychees to enthusiastic customers who found them being offered for the first time.

Probably most people in this country are familiar with the dried Lychee or Lychee nut or at least have heard of them. Chinese restaurants have been serving them for years and the better retail grocers stock them regularly. Thus, the American people are already acquainted with the name Lychee indicating that the publicity given to the fresh fruit will become immediately effective and the demand will more than keep ahead of supply.

And speaking of supply it is interesting to note that within the past two years approximately sixty new Lychee orchards have been established and more are being planted almost every