

NUT CULTURE.

BY J. H. WYLIE, INTERLACHEN, FLA.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Chairman of our Committee on Nut Culture, some time ago requested that I make a short report at this meeting as to planting and cultivating Pecan trees.

I regret to state that this subject has been neglected by our Society for the past two years, we receive a great many inquiries regarding the setting out, care and cultivation of Pecan groves in this State, and it is now considered "an important industry." Increasing and more intelligent attention is being given each year to the planting and cultivation of the Pecan. The permanent and increasing value of the tree is realized. We believe the outlook for the industry is brighter than ever. The demand for fine nuts for table and confectionery purposes is constant, and the supply of fine nuts is entirely inadequate.

WHEN AND HOW TO PLANT.

In this State Pecan trees may be set any time after the leaves drop in the fall varying with the season, but nearly always by the first of December until the end of March. It is essential however that the trees be dormant. As to distance apart we prefer to set the trees 40x40 or 50x50 feet.

In setting out a Pecan tree, a hole twenty-four inches in diameter and deep enough to accomodate length of tap root is usually large enough although larger holes and wider may be dug with advantage, more especially where any fertilizer

is used in planting the trees. Well-rotted manure or good commercial fertilizer may be put in outer sides of hole, an inch or two beyond the lateral roots when the hole is being filled, but not in direct contact with the roots, work and firmly press the soil among the roots, laying each root in its natural position, no holes or cavities should be left and the soil should be in close contact with the tap root after watering and it is also very important that no part of the crown or root be left exposed to the air. It is better to plant them an inch or two deeper than they stood in the nursery than to have the crown roots exposed.

In Pecan groves low growing crops such as peas, melons potatoes, peanuts, cotton, truck etc., may be planted profitably.

BUDDED AND GRAFTED TREES COMPARED WITH SEEDLINGS.

This covers an important feature of the Pecan Industry. Grafted and budded trees have advantage over seedlings because they usually begin to bear much earlier than seedlings they reproduce the variety from which buds and grafts were taken; perpetuation of the early, heavy and annual bearing of the parent tree is obtained; also greater care and attention usually given them on account of their greater cost.

As a result of the variable success attending the propagation of Pecans by budding and grafting and the compara-

tive slowness of the processes as compared with the simpler propagation of peaches and plums oranges etc., the trees must necessarily sell at a price which allows a margin to cover great losses in budding and grafting from unfavorable weather such as droughts or excessive rains, another consideration the cost of grafting and budwood, which is a sacrifice of nuts from choice bearing trees by the cutting therefrom of scions or budding wood. Again the disfigurement of seedling trees where buds or grafts fail to take the first season.

DISAPPOINTMENT.

There will be many disappointments in Pecans to those who have planted the "cheapest" trees they could buy without investigating source of variety of trees or reliability of party who follows the business of selling them.

Now is it not very plain to all that it is folly for anyone to risk the use of land for years expense of cultivating etc., to save a few cents on a tree, when for a trifling increase in the price he can get the very best warranted stock?

Most of the worthless stock is worked off by strange agents, who sell on their own account and are not authorized by any responsible firm to take orders for them. Such men buy up refused stock from large nurseries for almost nothing and fill their orders with it claiming it to be good. They also frequently warrant the stock, but as they the unknown or irresponsible, their warranty is absolutely worthless. If people would consider this fact, and buy only from agents who can show a certificate authorizing them to represent a responsible firm, there would be less danger of being cheated.

Our attention has been called to certain tree peddlers in this State buying seedling Pecan trees that had been grafted but grafts having failed to take new sprouts would naturally come out and make a nice healthy top; such trees being worth about ten to twenty cents, have been sold for grafted stock at \$1.00 to \$1.50 each.

It will be heart-breaking to those who have planted such trees relying upon them to support them in their old age to find they have been cheated and swindled and all hope of rest and peace in their declining years vanished. Men will die and leave "Pecan Groves" of this kind to their widows and children—with what result?

HOGG'S MONUMENT

The accompanying clipping from the daily press dispatches is very significant and means much, not only for Texas, but for the entire country. It shows an appreciation of the value of nut trees by a prominent man who had the welfare of the masses at heart and who chose the time of his departure from earth to impress the injunction upon his family and, through them, on the public at large.

"I want no monument of stone," he said, "but let my children plant at the head of my grave a pecan tree and at the foot of my grave a walnut tree, and when these trees shall bear let the pecans and the walnuts be given out among the plain people of Texas, so that they may plant them and make Texas a land of trees."

Such a monument will not only perpetuate the memory of Gov. Hogg—generations to come will share in the beneficial results which will follow the stimulus thus given to the nut growing industry, which is only now beginning to attract the at-

tention it merits from every one who owns a farm or village home.

Gov. Hogg was a man of wide experience, a close observer of cause and effect and he doubtless saw in the future of nut growing much to interest him and much of prospective good to his state. We like monuments of this kind, that help others to better lives and more profitable and pleasant surroundings.

The statement is generally made that the Pecan will succeed wherever the large species of hickory are found in the State, and this is doubtless true, as the Pecan belongs to the same family of trees.

Our experience in a small way in grafting some of the choice varieties of Pecan on young Hickory has been very satisfactory, as to the growth, and we trust in

a few years to be able to make a good report as to our success in getting them to bear fruit.

In working the pecan on hickory we find it an advantage to graft under ground and for this reason advise selecting the small trees in the forest where a grove may be desired on account of the hickory being plentiful.

There is no doubt that the Pecan is extremely hard to work, and only when the budding or grafting is done by an experienced hand is it likely that good results will be obtained.

The Pecan will grow on any soil except springy boggy land where the water stands near the surface or where the soil is underlaid with ledge rock at a slight depth.

AN ENTOMOLOGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE PECAN.

BY H. A. GOSSARD.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The following calendar is approximately accurate but must be admitted to be in a measure conjectural, because observations on pecan insects have not yet been sufficiently thorough to make possible an absolutely authoritative schedule. We hope that this imperfect one will stimulate observation and thereby contribute to the making of a perfect one in the near future.

JANUARY.

The twig girdler is at this time, a larva tunneling in the fallen twigs which were severed in the preceding fall. These

infested twigs may be gathered and burned.

Other fallen limbs may contain larvae and pupae of the oak pruner, hence, should be collected and burned.

The larvae and pupae of various borers are in their tunnels in the heart-wood of the trunks. The burrows may be located by the particles of sawdust on the ground and clinging to the bark beneath the external openings; also by the discolored bark below the orifices, caused by the oozing of the sap. By means of a spring bottom can or in some similar manner, inject bisulphide of carbon or chloroform into the furrows and at once stop the openings