

### Extraordinary Diversity of Fruit

Yolo county has as great a variety of horticultural products as are produced in any other equal area in the state. They include everything produced in the east and north, nearly, all the semi-tropical and many of the tropical fruits. On account of the diversity of thermal conditions its horticultural crops include products that are indigenous to the northern tier of counties but are not to be found in the south, and citrus fruits that are staple products of the south but do not thrive in the north. Indeed, its range of products is as wide as that of any other county in America.

J. M. Wilson, of the State University, in a government publication, after enumerating the great variety of products in Yolo county, gives the following instance of extraordinary diversity:

"On a lot in the town of Woodland, 80 feet front by a depth of 145 feet, one-seventh of an acre, the following trees, plants, vines and flowers were found in full bearing—twelve navel orange, one lemon, one cherry, three apple, two fig, two olive, two apricot, four almond, and two plum trees, fifty-eight grapevines (nine varieties), plots of dewberries, raspberries and loganberries, fifty varieties of rosebushes, a small vegetable garden of onions, tomatoes, lettuce, mint, sage, parsley, and beds of bulbous and other flowering plants."

There are many other instances where may be

seen flourishing side by side the choice products of the temperate zones and of the sub-tropics; also the apple, the peach, the pear, the plum, the apricot and grape, along with the orange, the lemon, the lime and the fig.

It is destined to be one of the greatest fruit districts on the Pacific coast, because the soil is rich and the climate makes the great number of varieties possible, matures the crops and enables the fruit grower to calculate with absolute certainty upon harvest time.

Of course the profits of the horticultural and viticultural industries vary and depend upon the care, cultivation and the scientific knowledge of those engaged in them. It is a conservative estimate, however, taken one year with another, that the net profit will not be less than \$100 per acre. Several years ago the writer collected some statistics which give examples of the yield of small tracts near Woodland, Winters and Esparto, and in Capay Valley. These statistics are still of value in arriving at conclusions although new methods of cultivating, harvesting and marketing have since been introduced.

John Wright received \$6412 for twenty acres of Sultana grapes; J. E. Martin, of Esparto, received \$2114 for four acres of almonds; A. L. McCloud received \$1500 for three acres of mixed table grapes; Mrs. Peart received \$1332 for five acres of Zinfandel wine grapes, which produced seven tons to the acre; F. A. McFall, of Esparto, received \$1200 for five acres of almonds, second year bearing; T. D. Morrin



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of Capay Valley, received \$600 from oranges from two hundred trees; Byron Jackson, near Woodland, received from one hundred and sixty acres \$35,662.30, a net profit of \$16,152.70.

Orange trees thrive on all the high lands in the county, but only in a few localities are they cultivated as a commercial proposition. The shipments from Capay valley are among the earliest made in the state. They begin to ripen in November, or more than six weeks before they are ready for shipment in the southern part of the state. They can be marketed so early that the products of the southern orange groves do not come in competition with them. Orange trees in Yolo county are not subject to mottled leaf, which is very detrimental to the quality of this fruit grown in many other places in our state. This discoloring of the leaves of the orange trees is brought about by poverty of soil. It will not prevail here, as our soils are the richest in the state.

The fruit is of a superior quality and of great commercial value because it ripens so early. It will not be many years before the cultivation of the orange will be one of the leading industries of the county.

Our unsurpassed irrigation facilities afford an opportunity to irrigate the trees in June, July and August. They grow rapidly during that period and being protected from the cool night winds that prevail in the south, they ripen earlier. The isothermal warm belt of mean temperature of 60 degrees extends over 1000 miles north up and down the state, while that

south of Tehachapi extends less than 200 miles. The secret of early ripening is simple. The Coast Range of mountains, bordering the sea, wards off the cool night breezes from the central part of the state, while the lower part of the state has an open coast for the night winds, which is comfortable for the residents, but checks the warmth of the sunlight.

The orange industry in the south was seriously injured by a cold snap in December. Oranges left on the trees in Yolo county were also in some instances frozen, but this loss could have been minimized by gathering the fruit as soon as it was ripe in November. In the south the loss was unavoidable because the fruit was not ripe enough to gather. Another advantage that Yolo county orange growers has over the south is an abundance of cheap water and land at reasonable prices.

The pomelo is a fruit of such recent introduction that there are but few trees in the county and many people are unfamiliar with it. It is delicious and healthful. Its flavor is a sort of combination of orange and lemon, with a slight bitter added. The pomelo is somewhat larger than the orange, its color more nearly that of the lemon, while its shape is similar to the earth's shape—a globe slightly flattened at the poles. The name "grape-fruit" is sometimes given to the pomelo, but its only resemblance to the grape is in the fact that it grows in clusters. There is not the slightest relation between the pomelo and the vine.





### WINTERS SCENES

At top—"Ranch 96." Left hand—Date Bearing Palms. Right hand—Peach Dry Yard. Bottom—Entrance to Winters from South.





### VIEWS TAKEN IN YOLO COUNTY

Top left to right—Eucalyptus Tree Near Dunnigan, Cache Creek Near Yolo, Road Near Madison. Bottom—Knights Landing School Building, Scene in Capay Valley.



Birdseye view of Guinda Yolo Co., Calif. 5.

Shinkle Photo, ca.





BERRY VALE GARDENS NEAR PLAINFIELD



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The novice must be instructed how to eat this magnificent fruit, or he will be sure to declare it worthless. The white membrane enveloping the seeds is unpleasantly and intensely bitter. The fruit must be sliced across its middle, and the white core removed with a silver spoon. Then the cavity should be filled with sugar, and the fruit allowed to stand for several hours in a cool place—preferably an ice box. Leave it there over night if you like fruit for breakfast. In the morning lift out its rich nectar with a spoon and enjoy a new variety of bliss unalloyed. Not only is it one of the most entrancing flavors ever discovered for the delectation of the human palate but it is superbly wholesome, a fillip to the jaded palate, a spur to the stubborn liver, and a coxer to the reluctant appetite.

Pomelo trees are hardy and they grow so rapidly with proper cultivation that they will bear at four and five years of age. They thrive wonderfully in Yolo county.

### THE GRAPE INDUSTRY

The soil and climate of the county seem to be well adapted for the successful and profitable culture of vines. Every variety thrives. On the 23<sup>d</sup> day of November, the day before Thanksgiving, C. T. Bidwell picked splendid samples of ten standard varieties of grapes from his vineyard near Woodland. All varieties of wine grapes do exceedingly well. The yield is from six to twelve tons to the acre.

Some of the best table grapes sent to the Eastern markets are the products of Yolo county vineyards. The industry is considered such an important one that the acreage is increasing. All varieties do well, but those regarded with the most favor are the Tokays, Cornichons, and Emperors.

### RAISINS

The culture of raisin grapes for the making of the commercial muscatel and the seedless sultana raisin is one of the great divisions of horticulture in Yolo county, and represents an industry that has done well in the past and promises satisfactory results for the future. The varieties grown are the muscat of Alexandria, the seedless Sultana and the Thompson seedless.

Yolo county is the home of the Sultana raisin. As early as 1901, all the choice bleached was produced here and 90 per cent of other grades. At present the Sultana is the most extensively planted raisin grape in the county. The product is superior to that in any other county in the state. The Sultana is one of the most prolific of grapes, bearing in certain years as high as 15 tons to the acre. The berries are small, seedless and of a yellowish tint when ripe, and make one pound of raisins from five pounds of fresh grapes. Most of the Woodland Sultana raisins are bleached by a process that produces a peculiar amber color, so much desired for the choice and fancy product. Aside from superior bleaching they are more meaty,



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and therefore preferred by commerce to seedless raisins grown in other sections of California.

The Thompson seedless is attracting some attention and some of the new vineyards are set out in this variety.

### PEACHES

Peaches of all the standard varieties grow to perfection, especially in Capay Valley, the Winters fruit belt and in the Yolo orchard. Many of the varieties are well adapted for the Eastern market on account of their high color and good shipping qualities. Large quantities are dried and the dried peach and apricot output is of exceptionally fine quality. Large quantities are also sold to the Winters cannery, which has attained a nation-wide reputation for the excellence of its goods.

### APRICOTS

The apricot crop is usually very profitable on account of its early ripening, size, flavor and quality. Considerable of the crop is marketed fresh locally or in the East, but the bulk of it is dried. Apricots flourish all over the county but they are found in greatest perfection in Capay Valley, near Winters and in the Yolo orchard.

### PRUNES

The prune crop is an important commercial asset.

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There are fine prune orchards in many sections but they are also grown on a larger scale in the Yolo orchard and in Capay Valley than elsewhere. The Tragedy prunes are most in favor, especially for Eastern shipments

### OTHER FRUITS

Capay Valley is the only locality where cherries are grown on a commercial basis. They are of excellent quality.

Several varieties of plums are also produced in various localities.

Figs thrive everywhere. Many of the dooryards of our country homes have fig trees of wonderful dimensions, and where any record of their yield has been kept we find a ton of fruit to the tree is not considered phenomenal. It is to be regretted that there has been no effort to improve the varieties, particularly since the introduction into our state of the fig wasp (*blastophalia*), which insures the production of the fig of commerce. There are about one hundred varieties of figs.

The best apples are produced on the high lands near Guinda.

### OLIVES AND OLIVE OIL

Olive trees of all varieties thrive and the berry attains a good size. The industry is comparatively in its infancy, but it will develop rapidly henceforth for the olive and its products are now generally rec-





PRUNE AND RAISIN DRYING YARDS





A YOLO COUNTY ALMOND ORCHARD



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ognized as most wholesome food and the growth of olives and the manufacture of olive oil and pickled olives is certain to expand. The oil and pickles manufactured in the county have a splendid reputation and find ready sale.

### ALMONDS

The reputation of our county for almonds of high grade is pretty well established, and one needs but compare them to almonds grown in other counties to recognize that they are entitled to their reputation, but we are far away from the limits of our capabili-

ties in that line. There are thousands of acres available and adapted to the growing of almonds in the district which produces these fine nuts. This industry is only in its infancy. It is one of the most profitable crops produced in California. There are large almond orchards near Yolo, Davis and in Capay Valley, and smaller ones in other parts of the county.

Walnut trees, French, English and native, do well anywhere in the county.

But little attention is given to pecans, but the trees in the Blowers orchard are thrifty and produce as good nuts as can be found anywhere in the world.



HARVESTING THE FOURTH CROP OF ALFALFA