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# West Texas Pecan Nursery

San Saba, Texas

E. S. Risien & Son, Proprietors

Originators and Propagators of High Grade Pecans. Established 1888

Indexed

From -----

Address -----



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.  
Official Business.  
Penalty for private use to avoid the  
payment of postage, \$300.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,  
Horticultural and Pomological Investigations.

8-3501

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

As trees are perishable goods it is little protection to us to send them C. O. D. The most satisfactory way is for strangers to send cash, and if there is any shortage in number or quality we will cheerfully and promptly adjust it.

We are careful to send out nothing but live, healthy trees, well packed, and do not, and should not be expected to guarantee them further.

As there is always a strong demand for our trees, we do not solicit any agents, or representatives.

Owing to the fact that parties having room for but two, or three trees, naturally want extra nice ones, and that it requires about as much time and material to pack that number as it does six or eight, we have had to price them accordingly.

As the combined diameter and circumference of a parcel post package must not exceed 72 inches, it is not practical to send a package of pecan trees by Parcel Post.

We make every reasonable effort to fill all orders according to specification and agreement and are under no circumstances liable for damage or judgment.

# VARIETIES

- ✓ Onliwon
- ✓ Western Schley
- ✓ San Saba Improved
- Liberty Bond

- ✓ Banquet
- ✓ Texas Prolific
- ✓ Squirrels Delight
- ✓ Burkett

# PRICES

1 to 3 trees .....	\$2.00 each
4 to 10 trees .....	1.50 each
11 to 30 trees .....	1.40 each
31 to 50 trees .....	1.30 each
51 to 100 trees .....	1.20 each

Seedlings for one half the above prices.

(over)

## SEEDLING PECANS

Pecans can and eventually will be developed into pure breeds and strains by the same methods that a great many cultivated plants and domesticated animals with which every one is familiar have been. The fundamental and important principle to be taken into consideration being simply that they conform to the general laws of hereditary and are likely to inherit the qualities of the parents and ancestors from which they spring to about the same degree that may be observed in numerous other forms of life, the human family being an excellent example.

Since the pestilate flower of the pecan (which finally matures into the nut) is rarely receptive at the time the staminate flower (commonly known as catkins or "Tassels") of the same tree discharge their pollen, nature ordained that pecans should cross fertilize, which is the cause of the numerous variations and varieties which exist.

It can be easily understood that during the ages past, the best and thinnest shelled pecans have to a considerable extent been destroyed by numerous kinds of animals and birds, and probably by Indians and the earliest white men, which in a general way, has left the inferior ones to reproduce; but in spite of this disadvantage the species has developed into what is probably the most valuable North American tree, so there is evidently a tendency for it to improve by evolution. If this process is reversed and only the best and most intelligently selected are allowed to reproduce there is good reason to believe, and it has been our experience, that rapid progress can be made in doing so.

We have in stock some three year old seedlings that are the result of several generations of careful seed selection and as seedlings are rather hardier than grafted stock, we sincerely recommend that some of them be included in a planting. We are not aware of a tree that has a more attractive appearance than a pecan, besides being long lived and bearing valuable crops. But concrete sidewalks and paving shut the rain and fertility out of the soil and conduct the summer heat and winter cold in. So hardiness should be a very important consideration in making a selection. It has also been our observation that the seedlings endure the late spring freezes, which occur every few years in our section, after trees are in full foliage, better than budded or grafted stock.

With favorable conditions these trees should bear in four or five years from the time of transplanting, or in about half the time an inexperienced person could hope to get fruit by planting seed.

## PLANT INDIGENOUS TREES

Regarding the controversy as to the relative merit of what is known as Eastern and Western varieties of pecans, for western conditions, it seems to us there is nothing to argue.

It is conceded that Western nuts are fuller and richer than the Eastern varieties, and the rough thick bark, and hard wood, which is characteristic of Western trees is obviously the result of the survival of the fittest process, together with the well known tendency which nearly everything possesses to adapt its self to its environment, which in this case is a very irregular climate with occasional wind storms. So to advocate the smooth barked soft wooded Eastern varieties for Western conditions, shows a lack of thought or else a lack of understanding of the operations and laws of nature. Among other things it might be compared to insisting that light complexions are as well suited to hot climates as dark ones, regardless of the significant fact that the natives of hot countries are invariably dark complected.

We do not recommend our trees for the humid regions lying from what is known as East Texas Eastward, but it has been our observation and experience that trees of native origin give the best results in the vast area lying West of that belt.

## CARE OF TREES ON ARRIVAL

If conditions are not favorable for planting trees when they are received they can be safely and easily stored, or "healed out" as it is called, by placing the roots in a pit or trench and covering them with fine moist soil. If there are hot dry winds blowing the tops should be protected from the sun.

## PLANTING

Pecans like other hardwood trees are difficult to transplant, but if proper precaution is taken there should be no serious loss.

In the first place the holes need not be very large but should be deep enough that the entire root system will be covered with constantly moist earth as it is obvious that the tree will get little benefit from those which are not.

As a general thing care should be taken that water drains toward a tree and not away from it, but there should be a small hill or mound immediately around the tree to give it all possible protection from the sun and air, and to guard against the upper part of the root system being disturbed or worked loose by the wind swaying the tree. The tree should have water often enough to keep the subsoil quite moist, but stagnant water will sour the roots. For ordinary conditions a good watering once a week the first season will give good results and as a gallon of

water will not saturate a yard of earth **be sure the water reaches the roots.**

A mulch of stalks, straw or even dead weeds around the tree will serve the double purpose of keeping the ground cool and moist and help to smother out weeds, and grass, etc., and as it decays will fertilize the soil, but notice should be taken that it is not thick enough to heat.

The most simple and effective way we have devised to protect the young trees from possible late freezes and scorching summer sun also from injury by rabbits, etc., is to wrap them loosely (loose materials are the most effective nonconductors of heat) with several layers of burlap or some such material, leaving a few inches at the top for foliage to put out. This may be taken off after danger of frost the second year or allowed to rot and fall off.

Sometimes newly planted trees will wither and die, without any visible cause, but proper examination will reveal the fact that the roots have been honey combed by wood lice, wood ants or "Termites" as they are variously called, leaving nothing but the bark. The habits of these insects make them exceedingly hard to combat. If they appear above the surface at all it will be at night so they are rarely discovered until the tree is damaged beyond remedy. The only suggestion we can offer is to place a board of some soft wood a few inches from the tree in such a way as to harbor them if there are any present, and they can then be destroyed with carbon bisulphide.

We do not think there is any thing gained by transplanting trees before Christmas and we have known pecans which were transplanted as late as March 15th to grow off nicely.

## PRUNING

It is impossible to transplant a tree without depriving it of part of the root system so in order to preserve the balance, about one half or one third of the top should be removed also, but afterward it should be remembered that nature does not do things without a purpose and that leaves are quite as essential to the growth of a plant as roots are.

In the animal kingdom the function of the lungs is to discharge carbon dioxide from the body and to absorb oxygen from the atmosphere, but in the vegetable kingdom this action is reversed and the function of the leaves is to discharge oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, and as carbon is the fuel element of wood, it is very necessary to the growth of plants.

It seems that the roots absorb the minerals and acids (of which ashes are composed) from the soil which are conveyed in a soluble form, through the sap wood of the tree, to the leaves, where being acted upon by the sun's rays they combine with the gases of the atmosphere (which pass away in flame) to form



the complete or growth producing sap, which is then distributed between the bark and wood of the plant where growth takes place. There are several indications of this. One being that in the spring the buds are the starting point of activity and growth, from where it extends to the limbs and trunk of the tree as the foliage develops. Another is that if a tree is girdled or tightly corded, until the tree dies, growth will be somewhat stimulated above the point but there will be absolutely none below.

If the terminal bud of an undesirable branch is pinched out about the first of May it will check the growth so that it will soon be shaded down, and nature will do the balance. If a large tree is developing a fork, a few small limbs cut from the top of one, will be a sufficient check to allow the other to become the leader.

## CULTIVATION

In commercial orchards pecans may be planted from 30 to 60 ft. apart; but if the former distance is chosen it will in time be necessary to remove every other tree. Where it is intended to grow other crops between the rows as is generally the case about 50 ft. is an ideal distance.

Our observation has led us to the conclusion that deep cultivation is conducive to the mysterious disease known as Pecan Rosette and after the trees begin to bear, should be avoided. Planting feed crops such as maize and sorghum among the trees should also be avoided.

## FERTILIZERS

In our locality we have no occasion to use fertilizer either in our Nursery or Orchard, as we can not speak from experience on that subject we suggest that those desiring information, write to some of the State Experiment Stations.



"I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing  
    breast,  
A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray.  
A tree that many in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair,  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree."

—Joyce Kilmer.