

the northwest, is almost exclusively the Italian. The Petite, or French, is a hardy and prolific variety, but entirely unprofitable, owing to its small size, except in years when the prune crop of France is a failure. Silver and Hungarians have been tried sufficiently to demonstrate that the former is too short lived, and the latter of value for drying. The sugar prune has been but slightly tested, in this country, but experience with it, in other parts of the valley, do not warrant its planting on a large scale.

The only variety which gives serious promise of becoming a competitor of the Italian, is the Willamette prune. But the Italian is the prune of the Northwest; and, in my judgement will maintain its ascendancy for many years. It has made a name for itself in the East; is self fertilizing, a fairly good bearer, and reasonably hardy, in suitable locations. The Eastern markets know but two varieties—the "California" and the "Oregon," the former being the variety called Petite, or French, and the latter being our Italian friend. For this reason, and the fact that it thrives so well in our climate, we should not abandon it until we are sure we have found a better variety.

Prune orchards should have good drainage, both underground and overhead. Atmospheric drainage is very necessary. For this reason the foot hills near Forest Grove present admirable locations for prune orchards, affording an opportunity for the cold air to escape to the lower levels. The prune orchards which are the most unthrifty and uncertain of crop are usually on the level land.

Nearly every man who has ten acres or more of prunes has a good evaporator most of them being of the "tunnel" style of construction. There are about fifteen evaporators in the county. There are "custom" evaporators at Gales Creek, Cornelius and Hillsboro, though several of the orchardists dry for their neighbors or buy the green fruit outright. For several years there was a tendency not to dry sufficiently, and the evaporated prune would fall to pieces when subjected to the steaming process preparatory to packing. But growers are now generally drying properly, although I think they use too much lye, in checking the skin, before drying.

In an average year orchardists get about one ton of dried fruit per acre, which, with a fair price, make the

business fairly profitable. By a fair price, I mean from four cents up, for prunes weighing from 40 to 50 to the pound.

In buying and selling prunes the basis price generally quoted is for equal quantities of the four sizes 60-70s, 70-80s, 80-90s, and 90-100s in bags f. o. b. The table shown below is useful in determining the value of different sizes when the basis price for equal quantities of four sizes is known. If the very large, or very small sizes command a premium, then the amount of such premium is to be added to the table figures.

In responding to your request for an article on this subject, I have limited myself to facts. The unsatisfactory prices of the past season do not encourage my fancy to soar. I believe that the prune industry is a permanent one and will yet be organized on a paying basis. I would discourage wholesale planting, and in isolated localities; but do not believe that a mistake will be made in additional planting on our foothills and in a neighborhood which has become a prune-raising center.

The advantages of growers clustering about one locality are manifest and manifold, and co-operations and mutual helpfulness in selling and disseminating information are thus made possible.

Nearly one half the acreage of the country is tributary to Dilley, and most of it within 1 1-2 miles of that station.

The great problem before prune raisers of the Pacific Northwest is to effect some organization by which the different selling agencies will be harmonized.

The associations have made the mistake of considering themselves all-sufficient as a marketing factor; and their rapid growth has aroused the hostility of the commercial packers, who have taken every means, this season to demoralize the market and keep down both prices and consumption, in order that the associations may be compelled to hold over.

This is but a natural outcome of ignoring important interests; and until these interests are conciliated and each given a fair outlet for his energy, prune prices will be low.

To bring the conflicting elements together is a difficult but not impossible task and one which I must trust may be accomplished before the advent of another drying season.

H. C. ATWELL.

Basis price, four sizes in cents	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 3/4	2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 3/4	3	3 1/4	3 1/2	3 3/4	4	4 1/4	4 1/2	4 3/4	5
30 to 40 prunes to the pound	3 1/2	3 3/4	4	4 1/4	4 1/2	4 3/4	5	5 1/4	5 1/2	5 3/4	6	6 1/4	6 1/2	6 3/4	7	7 1/4
40 to 50	3	3 1/4	3 1/2	3 3/4	4	4 1/4	4 1/2	4 3/4	5	5 1/4	5 1/2	5 3/4	6	6 1/4	6 1/2	6 3/4
50 to 60	2 1/2	2 3/4	3	3 1/4	3 1/2	3 3/4	4	4 1/4	4 1/2	4 3/4	5	5 1/4	5 1/2	5 3/4	6	6 1/4
60 to 70	2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 3/4	3	3 1/4	3 1/2	3 3/4	4	4 1/4	4 1/2	4 3/4	5	5 1/4	5 1/2	5 3/4
70 to 80	1 1/2	1 3/4	2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 3/4	3	3 1/4	3 1/2	3 3/4	4	4 1/4	4 1/2	4 3/4	5	5 1/4
80 to 90	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 3/4	2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 3/4	3	3 1/4	3 1/2	3 3/4	4	4 1/4	4 1/2	4 3/4
90 to 100	1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 3/4	2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 3/4	3	3 1/4	3 1/2	3 3/4	4	4 1/4
100 to 110	1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 3/4	2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 3/4	3	3 1/4	3 1/2	3 3/4	4	4 1/4
110 to 120	1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 3/4	2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 3/4	3	3 1/4	3 1/2	3 3/4	4	4 1/4

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