

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
COAST AGRICULTURE.
Varieties of Fruits Most in Demand.
SAN DIEGO RAISIN INTEREST.
Napa Grape Production—Subdividing Farms—Bean Culture—Persimmons.
Alta Register, February 15.
 Well aware that greater attention is now bestowed upon horticulture than ever before in this county and that the interest in the profitable pursuit is on the increase, we have gathered a few facts in regard to the demand for fruit trees this season, the soil best suited to their successful cultivation and the dangers to be avoided in the shape of pests.
 "Mr. Coates," said we to one of the proprietors of the Napa Nursery, "what variety of fruit trees have been most in demand this spring?"
 "French prunes, by far. The demand in every section of the State has been unprecedented. Nurserymen commenced the season with large supplies on hand, but they were long exhausted. It is simply impossible to procure these trees now and persons who neglect to send in their orders early will be obliged to wait until next season. Nurserymen in all portions of the State make the same report."
 "Do you think prunes can be successfully raised in this valley?"
 "Yes, I know it. Seven years ago quite a number of these trees were planted on the Maguire farm, five miles north of Napa city. They commenced bearing when three years old and have never missed a season since that time, notwithstanding the heavy frosts we occasionally have in the spring.
 "In our orchard, near Union station, a French prune tree that bore an abundant crop last fall. As the prunes can be raised in this valley in Santa Clara county."
 "Very many persons desire prunes on almond stocks. Do these stocks possess any superiority over others?"
 "No, I think the almond stock possesses no superior advantages over those of other stocks. Almond stock will not do as well in wet lands as the peach."
 "Have many prunes been planted in this valley this season?"
 "Yes, much more than in all previous years put together. Do you expect to see fruit, here in the valley, from the trees that have been planted from the tree. It must be dried. From it commands a good price."
 "How about cherry trees? Is there much of a demand for these trees?"
 "Yes, the best in the State has been a dearth of cherry trees in all the nurseries in this State for a long time and it is expected that all orders, including in favor of raising these trees in that they are less liable to attack from pests than any other fruit tree. Old trees are being many are diseased and about time to come. Many trees will be planted within the next few weeks. It is a fact now well known that cherry grows in Napa valley very successfully by any raised elsewhere. Although the yield of this fruit is very uncertain many orchards in the valley never fail to produce a crop."
 "Are apple trees in good supply?"
 "They are very scarce. The reason that the woolly aphis attacks the roots of young trees and it is difficult to get rid of the pest. Yet I am confident I shall succeed and expect to have a large crop in the new nursery we are raising. The one grade of apple trees have been brought up for localities outside our State."
 "Is the apple a profitable fruit to raise?"
 "I know of no better paying crop of fruit than good apples, even if they sell for only 75 cents per box, but the trees must be sprayed every year with some kind of insecticide to keep them clear of all pests. Care should be exercised in selecting the best varieties. Good apples are in demand in our local market and sell for \$1.50 and \$2 per box, but it is difficult to obtain them."
 "The interest in horticulture increasing in this valley?"
 "The indications are that orcharding will be a prominent industry in this valley from now onward, greater attention being paid to it each succeeding year. If grapes sell for 75 cents per bushel, fruit trees will bring in \$2 per acre. It is thought that you know he is one of the largest grape growers in the country—sold the recently that there is no question but that one acre of prunes or any other good variety of fruit will yield larger profits than grapes will. Mr. H. Stone, another prominent horticulturist, is preparing to plant."
 "How about peach trees. Is there a good demand for them?"
 "Yes, the stock in the nurseries in this State was long ago exhausted."
 "How do Napa valley peaches compare with those raised in other portions of California?"
 "Santa Clara and Alameda counties cannot raise as good peaches as we can. Cali to mind the few showings of this fruit made here when the Knight family visited us last autumn. Some trees were first raised in the Sacramento valley and others at the position, but here we see free of that trouble."
 "The moist land in this vicinity is naturally adapted to raising the plum and the apple. But they should be on some stock. We sold the plum grown in our orchard last season for 5 cents a pound. The red gradually leads in this part of the valley is extensively adapted for raising peaches. Most of our culture for summer stock come from Venetia and Russia. In those A because large quantities of fruit trees are being planted here and great parts of the future property of this branch of horticulture and I am confident that within a score of years in this portion of our valley there will be large well cared for and productive orchards. We have the advantage of orchards of the Santa Clara valley—no per garden and we shall certainly be successful of our interests if we do not keep our trees as free from fruit pests as possible."