

## The Fruits, Flowers and Palms of our State.

**W**HENEVER we think of Florida we naturally think of the charms of its fruits and flowers. Visions of banks of roses, festoons of yellow jessamine, wonderful growths and bloom of begonia and allamanda, great trees of hibiscus and oleander, and more than all, the flowers of the orange, lemon and lime.

Every month of the year some flowers are in bloom, and there is no excuse for the flower lover to fail to have his heart's desire. From roses, pansies and violets in winter, to camellias, gardenias, mahonias, magnolias and an almost endless list during spring and summer, keeps the flower garden a constant source of delight.

Many flowers which are considered not at home in Florida are grown with success in DeLand. Note the chrysanthemums grown by Mrs. S. B. Wilson, corner Minnesota and Clara avenues, and the violets, pansies and other northern flowers on the lawn of Mr. Zeigler, near Stetson. Hardly a lawn but that has its quota of flowers. DeLeon should always be held in happy memory because of the appropriate name he gave our beautiful State.

And then the fruits! We can grow every fruit grown in the North Temperate zone, except currants, gooseberries, cherries, cranberries and apples. Some succeed in growing a few apples, but not profitably. In place of the currant we have the pomegranates, and for jelly the Jamaica sorrel, which seems a substitute for both currant and jelly and cranberries. We have also jellies from the lemon, orange and grapefruit and guava. The guava makes the best jelly at less cost. It has been a commercial product for a century or more, mostly from the West Indies, but Florida is now turning out a very superior article which is commanding high prices.

The orange will no doubt always be considered the queen of fruits and has so many uses both for kitchen and dessert that the demand will go on steadily increasing.

The grapefruit is very little known among our northern friends, but is rapidly gaining in favor, and the demand is rapidly increasing. It has no superior as a tonic and stimulant to the digestive tract and it makes a marmalade far superior to the famous Dundee marmalade generally made from bitter-sweet oranges.

It has also been combined with a superior grape wine, and is used medicinally. Those who first make acquaintance with it should procure perfectly ripe specimens grown in Florida, and eat only the pulp, avoiding the rag or white part. If ripe, the blending of sugar, acid and bitter principle is perfect, and no addition of sugar is desirable. There is a small grapefruit known as Aurantium, which is eatable before Christmas, but the large varieties, weighing about thirty ounces each, are not very good until January 15th, and from then to the following August. It is found that they keep even better than oranges in cold storage, caves or ordinary cellars.

The Japan persimmon is another fruit slowly making its way into public favor. It is sure to become a very profitable fruit in the vicinity of DeLand.



A DELAND PEACH ORCHARD.



CHRYSANTHEMUMS AT THE HOME OF MRS. S. B. WILSON.



JAPANESE PERSIMMON (KAKI).

### Palm Trees in Florida.

Biologically speaking, the palm trees are among the highest of the plant creations. They are likewise the most beautiful and aesthetic of plants. A fine palm adds more value to the selling price of a place than any other single tree, not excepting the fruit bearing ones. Of course we should not expect a grove of palm trees to sell for the same price as a grove of grapefruit trees. A reasonable number of palm trees, however, distributed at the proper locations about the home place, adds immensely to the desirability of the location. In fact, very few palms come to their grandest stature before twenty-five to fifty years of age. They, however, show off remarkably well at four or five years old, and at ten or fifteen years of age they will cause many a passer-by to wish that he "owned that tree."

The difficulty heretofore experienced in planting palm trees has been that we have not known just what to select, nor how to set them out after they have been selected. We are apt to treat a palm tree very much as we would a jardiniere of ferns, that is, sticking it in some house corner where it can get only a peep of sunlight now and then. The palms about which I wish to speak later are such as can stand the full glare of the sun without injury; they can be left out in the most tempestuous winds that we have; they can stand months of neglect, and come out smiling from this course of treatment. Like every other cultivated specimen, they take very good naturedly to kind treatment. They differ from most trees in that the position of their leaves permits the free circulation of air, and the broad leaved, fan palms afford a good and cool shade.

With all these good qualities they have the still further excellent ones of being remarkably free from fungus and insect attacks. In addition to this, they do not harbor that most annoying pest with which we have to deal at times, the Florida mosquito.

In setting out these trees due regard should be had for the landscape effect. One of these trees when once set out is almost never transplanted. Not that they are so exceedingly difficult to transplant, but their beauty being once realized, they are so valued that no one has the courage to hazard the chance of losing a fine specimen. If the trees are planted with a view of avenue setting, they should be placed far enough back from the road to allow a full development of the leaves without the necessity of cutting back. For planting about the dooryard or open lawn due regard should be had for the point of view, so that when these have grown to be tall trees the view may not be obstructed. The contour of a piece of land should also be had in mind, and the general character of the trees and other ornamentals about the dooryard.

Cabbage Palmetto (*Sabal Palmetto*)—I mention this one first because it is a native. And here I may be permitted to digress a moment and preach a curtain lecture on the fact that we do not appreciate our native decorative plants sufficiently. We

have in our flora many specimens which make the handsomest of decorative specimens, but simply overlook them and cast about us for something that has been imported from distant and little known lands. I see that illustrated constantly at my own home, where many native decorative plants grow in profusion, and our visitors pass these by without any particular attention or commendatory remark.—Mrs. P. H. Rolfs, of Miami, Fla., before the Florida State Horticultural Society.