

WORK OF M.H. PANHWAR ON LYCHEE, LONGAN, PEACHES, APPLES AND GRAPES

Lychee.

Common varieties of the Pakistan, Dera Dun and Bengal are only two varieties in South-Asia. We have 5 other varieties including one seedless. They all produce fruit in 3rd year from planting if marcotted. Marcotts are produced from branches $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inches diameter and 1.0 meter tall and are 4 year old branches of tree. Common stooled plants are 1/16 to 1/8" diameter and 95% die in the first few years of planting. This is why lychee can not be expanded on large scale by farmers. Marcotted plants cost 5 times as much as stools, but success rate is 90%.

Longan.

It is called little brother of lychee and is easy to grow. It fruits early in 5 years. It produces twice as much as lychee. Fruit is much sweeter and very popular in South East Asia. Seedling fruit in 5 years and marcotts in 2nd year.

Grapes.

Of 24 varieties tried by us the best are:

- Sultanina (Golden colour for raisins, juice, wine and table).
- Ruby Red seedless.
- Black Monnuka seedless.
- Flame seedless Red.
- Perlette (Golden) similar to Sultanina but earlier by one month.
- Muscat of Hamburg (Pink).

They can grow in whole Sindh.

Peach.

We have 10 varieties of peaches of which 8 are melting and free-stone and other two are semi-clung. They suit Sindh's climate the best and are harvested from 15th April to 15th May.

Apples.

We have 4 varieties of apple, called Dorset Golden, Einshmer, Anna and Crab. Anna is self infertile and must be planted with 3 other varieties. They are golden yellow but Anna develops red blush at full maturity, Crab is fully red.

Grape fruit.

We have 4 varieties of seedless grape fruit, all having pink coloured juice, pink blush on skin and more than 65% juice which is not acidic. Local red blush varieties have 50-80 seeds in their 13 segments, their pulp sacks are pink, but juice is transparent like water and highly acidic. Their juice content is only 35%. Their per acre production is half of seedless varieties and per acre juice is 25% of seedless varieties.