



Cluster of Mahan nuts before the husks have broken open. The Mahan bears heavily at the University of Arizona Experimental Pecan Orchard near Tucson.



### Right Variety Important

Selection of varieties adapted to a particular elevation is of utmost importance for the production of high quality nuts. Plantings at the University of Arizona Experimental Farms at Yuma, Mesa, Tucson, and Safford have indicated the more promising varieties for each area.

In the Yuma Valley with its warm winters, some varieties, especially the Burkett, germinate (sprout) on the tree prior to the opening of the green husks enclosing the pecan nut. Sprouted nuts are not usable since they become very bitter once germination begins. In the Yuma area, Western Schley and Mahan have proved adapted. This variety forms a large globe-shaped tree with medium-large elongated nuts.

In the Salt River Valley and also the Tucson area the Western Schley, Mahan, Delight and Humble varieties are adapted. The Mahan nuts are very large and elongated and for this reason are popular. Burkett has been popular in these areas but pregermination of nuts on the tree is serious during warm fall seasons.

In the Safford area Burkett, Success, and Western Schley are well adapted. Burkett has excellent flavor and medium-large size.

The Halbert variety is adapted to all pecan growing areas and produces consistently high yields of well-flavored nuts, which are rather small in size. In isolated areas where no pecan trees are grown, the Halbert aids in pollination of other varieties. The San Saba Improved is being planted in the pecan growing areas; however, the nuts are rather small.

### Give It Plenty of Room

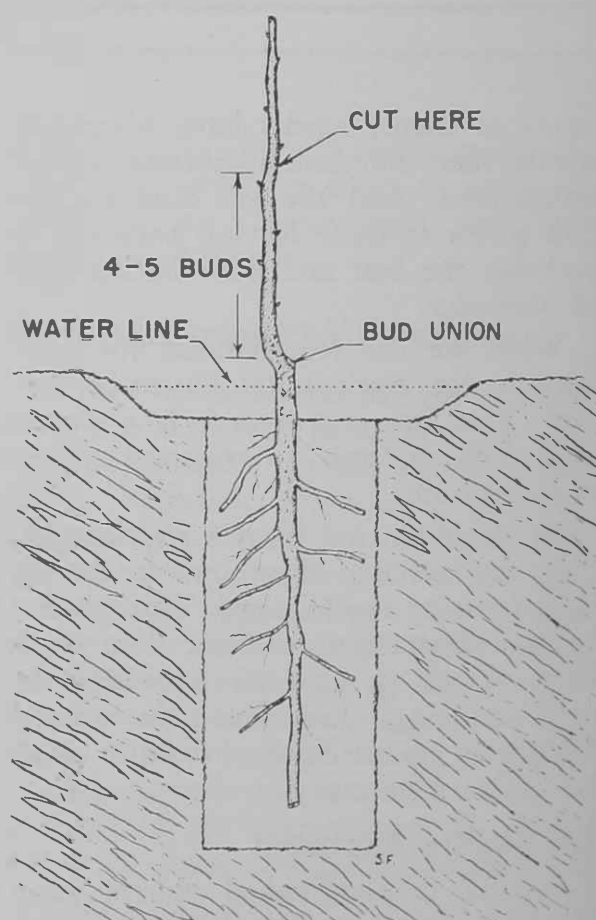
Bare rooted pecan trees are available at local nurseries during the winter months. The young tree should be planted at least 25 feet from a building and approximately twice this distance from another tree. The tap root of the young pecan tree may vary in length, but the tree hole should be dug sufficiently deep and wide to accommodate the entire root system. The top portion of the tree must be pruned back after planting to leave four or five buds above the bud union

and make the cut a few inches above the last bud on the trunk. After planting apply one pound of zinc sulfate in the basin to prevent pecan rosette. Additional applications of zinc sulfate may be required in subsequent years depending upon symptoms of rosette.

Pecan trees produce a deep tap root system so it is important that they be planted *only* in areas having deep soils. Pecans are not recommended for areas having caliche soil several feet below the surface. Plantings made in these soils do not produce vigorous growth, since the root distribution will be restricted within the confines of the tree hole.

Production of pecan nuts usually begins four to five years after planting, depending on variety. In 10 years, the spread of the tree will approximate 20 feet with considerable shade during summer and fall. Leaf defoliation in December allows desirable sunshine in winter. Pecan trees can provide desirable summer shade for livestock. Some commercial pecan orchards with bermuda grass sod are effectively used for grazing.

**Pecan tree planting showing approximate distribution of tap and lateral roots and location of buds. Depth of tree hole would approximate five feet, depending on the size of the nursery tree root system.**



# Pecans

## For Shade and Nut Production

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Desirable shade from mature pecan trees has created interest among homeowners who want a dual purpose tree for home plantings. The pecan's branching habits permit efficient air movement through the tree, resulting in a cooling effect plus shade.

Although the pecan tree is recognized as slow growing in comparison to other trees, its abundance of shade and its nut crop will reward the grower for his patience. Pecans have a relatively long life compared with other dual purpose trees.

For other information on pecans, get a free copy of Circular 247, "Pecans in Arizona," from your County Agricultural Agent.