Growing Citrus on Bayou Teche

By S. B. Gauthier

EXAMINING LOUISIANA SWEET ORANGES ON BANKS OF BAYOU TECHE.

ALVIN GUIDRY BUYS A CITRUS ON A NATIVE TREE

By S. B. Gauthier

Guidry walks deep into the orchard, stopped down and held up a branch loaded with sweet oranges. It's a small tree, but it's loaded with fruit. He says that this tree is about 5 years old and that it's already producing a lot of fruit. He says that he's been experimenting with native citrus varieties for several years and that he's found that they are very hardy and that they produce a lot of fruit.

The trees that Guidry grows are all grafted or budded onto native rootstock. He says that this is important because it helps to keep the trees healthy and productive. He explains that the native rootstock provides the trees with the nutrients that they need to grow strong and healthy.

Guidry walks over to an area where he's planting new trees. He says that he's planning to plant about 100 trees this year. He explains that he's been working with SCS (Soil Conservation Service) to design a small levee around the area where the trees are being planted. He says that this will help to keep the soil from being washed away by rainwater.

Of course, soil quality is very important in citrus farming. The trees need to be grown in soil that is rich in organic matter and that drains well. Guidry explains that he uses composted horse manure to improve the soil and that he also adds lime to the soil to help to keep it pH balanced.

The trees are planted in the fall. Guidry says that he prefers to plant the trees in the fall because this helps to ensure that the trees will have enough time to establish themselves before winter. He also says that this is a good time to plant because the soil is still warm and that the trees will have a better chance of surviving the winter.

Guidry keeps close watch on the trees and makes sure that they are getting enough water. He says that he's been using an electric water meter to help him keep track of how much water the trees are using. He says that this is important because citrus trees need a lot of water to grow healthy.

Guidry also keeps close watch on the trees for pests and diseases. He says that he uses organic pesticides and that he also uses natural predators, such as ladybugs, to help keep the pests under control.

Guidry says that he's been growing citrus trees for several years and that he's found that they are very profitable. He says that he sells his fruit at the local farmers' market and that he also sells it to local restaurants.

Guidry is very proud of his citrus trees and he says that he's planning to continue growing them in the future. He says that he enjoys watching the trees grow and that he's always looking for new ways to improve his farming practices.

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