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Home Grown Fruit

Small commercial fruit plantings have a distinct place in North Dakota when suitable conditions can be found. Extension Horticulturist Harry Graves points out that the western slope of the Red River Valley affords desirable sites and that the rolling land in many parts of western North Dakota provides desirable sites.

He calls attention to the success Mr. Chris Geir, of Edinburg, Pembina County, is having in growing strawberries, apples, grapes, and raspberries on one of the western shore lines of glacial Lake Agassiz. Mr. R. L. Wodarz, of Wyndmere, successfully manages a 5 acre orchard on the western slope of the Red River Valley.

Looking farther west, Graves calls attention to the successful small fruit and market garden

operated by Mr. C. L. Benzi, of Washburn, an irrigated garden located on the banks of Painted Woods Creek in the Missouri River bottoms. In 1944 Mr. Benzi sold about 2500 quarts of strawberries at 40 cents a quart from slightly less than an acre of sprinkler-irrigated Gem strawberries.

What these men have done, many others can do. In fact, much can be done to create a favorable site. Where there's a will, there may be home grown fruit. (H.L.W.)

North Dakota's 1944 growing season precipitation, April to September, inclusive, was 42 percent above the 1892-1944 average in western North Dakota, 40 percent above in middle North Dakota, 29.2 percent above in eastern North Dakota, and 36.5 percent above for the State as a whole. The May plus June precipitation in 1944 was even more above the long-time average (1892-1944), exceeding it by 78.3 percent in western North Dakota, 70.3 percent in middle North Dakota, 24.1 percent in eastern North Dakota, and for the State as a whole by 54.9 percent. (H.L.W.—from U. S. Weather Bureau data.)