

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE. BUREAU OF PLANT
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SPANISH ALMONDS AND THEIR
INTRODUCTION INTO AMERICA**

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DAVID G. FAIRCHILD

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BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY—BULLETIN NO. 26.

B. T. GALLOWAY, Chief of Bureau.

SPANISH ALMONDS

AND

THEIR INTRODUCTION INTO AMERICA.

BY

DAVID G. FAIRCHILD, AGRICULTURAL EXPLORER,
SEED INTRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.



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1902.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF,
Washington, D. C., July 7, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a paper on Spanish Almonds and Their Introduction into America, and respectfully recommend that it be published as Bulletin No. 26 of the Bureau series. The paper was prepared by Mr. David G. Fairchild, Agricultural Explorer, and was submitted by the Assistant in Charge of Seed and Plant Introduction.

Respectfully,

B. T. GALLOWAY,
Chief of Bureau.

HON. JAMES WILSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

PREFACE.

The accompanying paper is one of a series, which it is hoped can be issued from time to time, embodying observations made on specific crops by the agricultural explorers of this Department. Already several such papers have appeared and have aroused general interest in the subjects discussed.

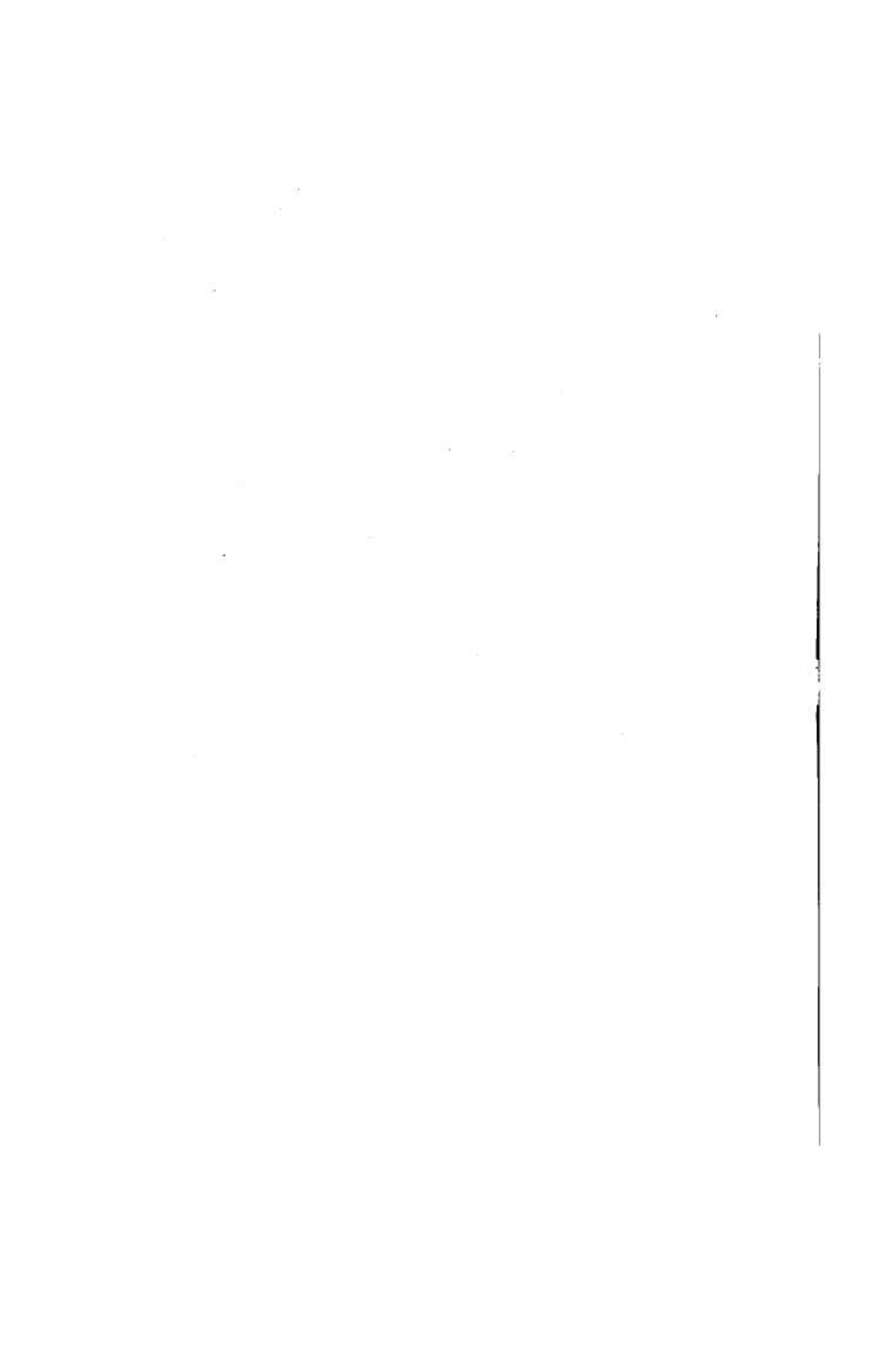
Almond culture is an important industry in California, and, to a more limited extent, in Arizona and Utah. It is hoped, therefore, that this bulletin may prove of value to these regions. The introduction of the varieties of almonds herein discussed can not, apparently, be without great benefit.

ERNST A. BESSEY,

Assistant in Charge of Seed and Plant Introduction.

OFFICE OF SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION,

February 14, 1902.



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SPANISH ALMONDS AND THEIR INTRODUCTION INTO AMERICA.

INTRODUCTION.

The most valuable almonds of commerce are those grown in southeastern Spain. They are hard-shelled varieties and bring on the English and American markets 8 to 10 cents a pound more than any other sort, being in favor with confectioners for the manufacture of their best salted and sugar-coated almonds. These superlative sorts are imported from Spain by Boston and New York importers for retail to confectioners, many thousands of dollars being expended annually on this import.

Since 1885 Californians have been growing almonds quite successfully, and there are in certain valleys in the State localities where almond culture has become distinctly profitable.

According to the statistics collected by Mr. W. A. Taylor and published in the Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture for 1897 as much as 2,500,000 pounds had been produced in California in a single year prior to that date. Commercial estimates of the crop of 1900, furnished through the kindness of Mr. Taylor, place the almond yield of California at nearly 5,500,000 pounds in that year. The quality of the product is excellent for many uses, but confectioners prefer the imported article, as is evidenced by the fact that they imported in 1897 over \$683,000 worth, largely from Spain. It has been assumed that the superiority of these Spanish nuts over the Californian lies in some unexplained and unexplainable peculiarity in the climate of southeastern Spain which finds no equivalent in California. The better informed growers, however, have known that the question was largely a matter of variety, and that the best Spanish sort had never been introduced into America. The matter of its introduction may have been discussed prior to 1893 by California horticulturists, but up to that year, so far as the writer has been able to discover, only the kernels, which form the commercial article, had been known in this country. In 1893 the Division of Pomology of the Department of Agriculture secured from Mr. Charles Heath, United States consul at Catania, Sicily, a handful of the uncracked nuts which he had secured from a firm in Malaga. These were of the so-called Jordan variety, and were said to have been grown on some islands off the Spanish coast. The remark-