

without livestock, and thus worked as sharecroppers for bedouin in Bir al-Sab'a during the harvest season. Others had surplus crops and carried grapes in wooden crates to Gaza to sell them there.²⁷⁷ Al-Shuyukhi points to olives as the village's prized crop; he writes that in 1942 the village held about 350 metric dunams of *rūmi* olive trees. *Rūmī* trees are considered to have been planted before the Muslim conquests. The majority of these trees stand in the northwest corner of the village's lands, in Sh 'ib al-Fāris.²⁷⁸

In 1876, there were 84.75 dunams of olives registered to Shuyukh in thirty-one separate entries, averaging 2.7 dunams per entry. The first page of village agricultural entries, the only page to record numbers of olive trees alongside dunams, gives us some indication of the size of the village's olive-tree holdings. Based on the figures below, which yield an average of eleven trees per dunam, we can estimate that on Shuyukh's lands there were likely between 900 and 1,000 olive trees.

²⁷⁷ Al-Shuyukhi, 40-41.

²⁷⁸ Al-Shuyukhi, 41, 22, 24.