

By the 1922-1923 season, the area cultivated with citrus realized its prewar level of 30,000 *dunums*. Thereafter, there was a secular increase in area reaching about 300,000 *dunums* in the 1936-1937 season, and maintaining that level through the 1939-1940 season. In 1938, the citrus output represented 58 percent of the value of all principal crops. With the onset of WWII and the consequent shortage of shipping and of fertilizers and shipping containers, citrus groves were being abandoned or uprooted so that by the 1944-1945 season the area had declined to 244,000 *dunums*.

Most of the area of citrus groves, about two thirds, was planted between 1930 and 1936, when prices and profits were high.²⁴ It was also in the early 1930s that the bulk of European Jewish groves were planted at such a fast rate that by 1936, the groves owned by them reached 155,000 *dunums* (i.e., 52 percent of the total for the whole country when in 1922 they owned 10,000 *dunums* or about 35 percent of the total).²⁵

In 1942, a majority of the groves were relatively small such that 85 percent of the groves were under 40 *dunums* in area and constituted close to 46 percent of the total area, while about the largest 9 percent of groves, the ones over 60 *dunums*, constituted close to 41 percent of the total area.²⁶

²⁴Robert R. Nathan, Oscar Gass, and Daniel Creamer, *Palestine: Problem and Promise, An Economic Study* (Washington, DC: American Council on Public Affairs, 1946), 210.

²⁵Gurevich, *Handbook*, 179.

²⁶*Survey I*, 337.