

in the West Bank are: Olive fruit fly (Daucus olea), Twig borer (Thomisiana oleisuga), Peacock eye spot (Cycolonium oleaginum) and Lichens (parasitic plants).

The damage inflicted by these pests is certainly significant, but the magnitude of the damage probably does not exceed, on the average, 15 percent of the crop.¹ This, in addition to the high cost of chemical sprays, has discouraged farmers from displaying active interest in the control of olive pests.

2. Intensity of weed infestations. Following early showers in November and December weeds grow rapidly and intensely, thus competing with olives for scarce moisture and nutrients. Controlling weeds by ploughing is expensive. Chemical control has been effective and considerably cheaper, and over half of respondent farmers expressed their desire to try the new technology, if such a service could be made available through contract spraying companies.

Grapes

Grapes are indigenous to Palestine and there is ample evidence of their prevalence during the Roman occupation, about two thousand years ago. At the present, however, commercial grape production is restricted largely to southern districts (Hebron, Bethlehem), but grapes are still second only to olives on the list of rainfed trees.

Area and distribution

According to most recent data the West Bank grows around 87,000

1. Assessed from estimates of specialist extension agents.

donums of vineyard with a total annual production of around 46,000 tons (see Table VII-6). The largest concentration of vineyards is in Hebron district, which accounts for about two thirds of area and output, followed by Bethlehem with a share of 20%. In fact vineyards are concentrated largely on a stretch extending between the two cities of Bethlehem and Hebron, which produces 87% of West Bank grapes. Produce of other districts is consumed mostly by farm households and has very little commercial value. There are many indications (such as widespread prevalence of ancient wineries) to suggest extensive cultivation of grapes in most parts of the West Bank until several decades ago.

Table (VII - 6)

Area and production of grapes by district (1980)

<u>District</u>	<u>Area (donum)</u>	<u>Yield (kg/don)</u>	<u>Output (tons)</u>
Total	87,353	521	45,557
Hebron	55,376	550	30,456
Bethlehem	17,820	500	8,910
Jerusalem	270	500	135
Ramallah	7,290	500	3,745
Jericho	61	2000	122
Nablus	1,500	300	450
Tulkarm	1,536	400	614
Jenin	3,500	350	1,225

Source: Files of district offices of the Department of Agriculture.

The decline of vineyards in northern districts is worth special attention, as it comes despite abundant labour and land resources. This phenomenon could be attributed to three major factors: