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PALMER FARMS WIDELY KNOWN OVER FLORIDA

Property One of Finest Agricultural Developments In Country

The Palmer Farms, an 8,000 acre tract of land, almost due east of Sarasota, is one of the outstanding agricultural developments in Florida and is widely known throughout the nation. Many visitors from the north, whether interested in farming or not, consider this project one of the points of interest during their winter stay in Sarasota. The fertile acres of Palmer Farms are considered one of the show places of the county and even the mere on-looker is able to vision the vast possibilities of Sarasota's back country after seeing what is being done by the farmers on the Palmer Farms.

Two Types Of Soil

The farms are located in the northwestern part of the county in the Sarasota-Fruitville drainage district. The Palmer Farms section was formerly a part of Manatee county which has claimed attention widely for its winter vegetable production. Through many favorable contributing factors, not the least of which is the similarity to the proven farms of Manatee county, Palmer Farms command attention in line with the growing expansion of agriculture in Florida.

Palmer Farms believe they offer the farmer all the essentials to make his labors prosper in soil, drainage, irrigation and markets. The soils are chiefly two types, sandy loam and muck. The muck soil has been found to compare favorably with the muck soils of Moore Haven in the Everglades. The farms also are located in the Sarasota-Fruitville drainage district created under state laws, assuring permanency and upkeep. In addition to the general drainage district the Palmer interests install a unit ditch to serve each 10-acre tract in the development.

The farms are located in the artesian well belt, allowing irrigation and thus the danger of drought is eliminated and provides means of increasing crop yields. In most instances four 10-acre tracts are served with water from one eight-inch well.

Products of Palmer Farms find principal outlet in northern mar-

kets at a period when they are subjected to minimum competition. Further, the location of these farms closely adjacent to a number of well-populated West Coast resort centers and thriving year 'round cities provides a good local market.

Crops from Palmer Farms are marketed at present through the Manatee County Growers' Association, a proven co-operative agency, this organization providing growers with able assistance in intelligent production, co-operative buying of seeds, fertilizer and other supplies; in obtaining picking and packing labor, as well as in successful marketing.

Both in the matter of rail and highway transportation of crops, the location of Palmer Farms is strategical. The development is traversed by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, while the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, another of the principal trunk lines of the South, runs within a mile of Palmer Farms. On a spur of the Atlantic

Coast Line, right on the grounds, a packing house has been erected for use of Palmer Farms' growers.

For reaching local markets by motor shipment, Palmer Farms' truckers have the cross-state highway from Sarasota to Arcadia and West Palm Beach, a wide, hard-surfaced road running the length of the development. The City of Sarasota is rapidly developing its deep-water port facilities, at present possessing a channel of eighteen foot depth into the Gulf of Mexico.

Interest in and service to the grower who purchases a farm at Palmer Farms does not end with the "signing on the dotted line."

Service to the farmer centers in the experimental station and demonstration farms, under the supervision of agricultural experts. Through these mediums, soil fertility, seeds, average yields, fertilizers, irrigation and drainage are tested and results made available for the use of the growers.

Two 40-acre demousartion farms

have been established, one in average muck soil and the other in sandy loam. On these tracts all manner of crops are given "try-outs" under every condition and the "best bets" determined for the benefit of the Palmer Farms' growers. The experimental stations and demonstration farms will be maintained until such time as it is deemed the important phases of commercial farming here have been determined.

Tomatoes and celery are expected to become two of the principal commercial vegetable crops, Eggplant, beans, cabbage, Irish potatoes and peppers also are grown with profit. Watermelons, sweet corn, cantaloupes, spinach, turnips, beets, cucumbers, onions and berries and bulb culture are other products raised with profit.

R. K. Thompson is general manager of the Palmer Farms and Ed L. Ayers is agriculture agent in charge of the experimental work. Ayers was formerly county agent

for Manatee county. W. L. Follett is sales manager.

During the late summer the celery industry was given a decided impetus by the sale of large tracts of land in the Palmer Farms to Sanford men. The Sanford district has been looked upon as the great center of the industry in Florida, if not in the country. The sale of Palmer Farms is looked upon as an indication of how experienced farmers regard Sarasota county farm lands. The Bell brothers of Lake Monroe in the Sanford district purchased 100 acres of Palmer Farm lands. R. L. Garrison purchased 50 acres and J. T. Reeves, a 10-acre tract. Both these men are from Sanford.