

GARDENING

Gardening is the branch of agriculture in which different fruits, grapes and berries are cultivated. It serves to satisfy demand of the population for fruits and fruit products. Information about the gardening in Central Asia can be found in ancient Greek, Chinese and Roman sources which were written in the 1st millennium of BC. Central Asia is the motherland of many fruits. Through the centuries on the basis of the people's selection productive sorts of such fruits as apricot, apple, pear, nut, almonds, pomegranate and grapes were created. Majority of them in terms of quality have their own unique place in the world collection.

More than 20 sorts of fruits and berries are cultivated in our republic. Seeded fruit trees, pome fruit trees, subtropical plants and berries took the main place. Autumn sorts of apple, pear and grape's autumn and winter sorts have economical significance. From time immemorial viticulture was developed in Tashkent and Samarkand regions and in Fergana valley. It has such directions as *xoraki*, *mayizbop* (best for raisin making), canned products and vine making. Fruits brought from tropical and subtropical zones, as lemon, orange, tangerine, eastern persimmon and others are being cultivated to increasingly planting areas. There are more than hundred specialized gardening commu-

nities. Total area of gardens reached 320 thousand hectares, aggregate fruit and grape harvest exceeds 833 thousand tones.

Uzbeks together with being the owners of rich experience, they also adhered to some traditions connected with gardening. For example if a child is born in the family, a habit of planting a tree became wide spread. In its turn cutting dried tree was another habit, as dry tree symbolizes a dead person. After cutting a baby's hair for the first time (this was done by the oldest family member) it was buried under the fruit tree. It was done so that the baby had many children in the future. Among people there was such belief if you cut one tree, plant two instead of that tree. For this reason love for trees was absorbed since childhood.



