

Thomas Jefferson, an advanced agriculturist of his day, indulged the hope of introducing the olive into Virginia and other Southern States, and when in Paris, in 1787, wrote "that although the olive was the tree the least known in America, it was the most worthy of being known," and pronounced it "of all the gifts of Heaven to man, next to the most precious;" and further adds: "Having been myself an eye-witness to the blessings which this tree sheds on the poor, I never had my wishes so kindled for the introduction of any article of new culture into our own country."