

Buyers happy to pay for the best

Liu Jingxian and Tom Qian

Despite costing 80 yuan (US\$12) a kilogram, Malu grapes are very popular in Shanghai. Only 36 grapevines are planted on each *mu* (667 square meters) of land in Shanghai Malu Grape Park.

"The secret of Malu grapes lies in that figure," said Shan Tao, deputy director of Malu Grape Research Institute and general manager of the park.

Normally grape growers plant at least 120 vines per

mu, sometimes even 200. However, they get a lot more space in the park.

"We control the growing of grapes by controlling the growth of root system to make sure more nutrients are transmitted to the fruit," Shan said.

This planting model can not only reduce the land management area but also save fertilizer, water and labor. It can raise quality and prevent the grapes splitting as well.

"How much nutrition each grapevine needs, how large an

area can supply that nutrition and how many grapes a grapevine produces are all decided after careful calculations," Shan said.

There are more than 500 *mu* of vine fields in the park, and 60 percent of them are planted using this method.

Even though the number of vines per *mu* is reduced, the yield is almost the same as the crown of each grapevine is around 8 square meters, or around three times larger than before, Shan said. "There are around 1,800 branches on

36 grapevines, and we control the number of grapes to no more than 1,200 bunches to guarantee its quality."

Most of the consumers like to peel grapes before eating to avoid pesticide residue commonly found in other fruits, but Shan and his father Shan Chuanlun grow organic Malu grapes which allows consumers to eat them with the skin on.

It contains anthocyanin and resveratrol, both of which are said to be good for your health, Shan said.

Elderly care program to deal with bed shortage

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JIADING has been assessing what the elderly need in terms of care to relieve a shortage of beds at nursing homes as the population ages. The assessment work has been tested at Anting Town and there are plans to expand it district-wide.

"Assessing the care needs of the elderly is to evaluate the health condition of seniors first to allocate appropriate senior care services to make sure that the resources can match the demand," Wang Bin from Jiading District civil affairs authority said.

Anyone over the age of 60 who has signed an agreement with their doctor can apply for assessment on district civil affairs official website or through communities. To ensure that the assessment is objective and fair, each assessment will be made by two evaluators from civil affairs and healthcare departments. After investigation, the evaluators input the information, and an evaluation system will automatically generate an assessment grade.

Zhu, an 87-year-old woman, lives by herself at Huangdu Community in Anting Town as her sons and daughters work elsewhere. As she was being relocated from her old house and felt it inconvenient to live alone in an apartment, Zhu wanted to go to a home for elderly. A family member called Huangdu Community and then two evaluators visited her and checked her health and lifestyle.

However, after evaluation, Zhu was not qualified for the nursing home as she was deemed still very healthy.

Only the most deserving cases can have a nursing bed because there is a shortage. The only option for people like Zhu is a private home.

Time for crayfish to leave the rice fields

Li Huacheng and Tom Qian

CRAYFISH, one of the most popular food items in summer, are being harvested in local rice fields for the first time. Jiading began the test raising of crayfish since last year, and this year the technology will be expanded to more rice fields.

"We promote the technology to add an income for our farmers," said Hu Chunhui, director of Jiading Special Aquaculture Base.

"I can make more money by raising crayfish. In addition, the price of rice will also double as no pesticides or fertilizers will be used in the field because of crayfish," local farmer Zhang Mingquan said.

He spent about 5,000 yuan (US\$769) on a 667-square-meter field and harvested 1,000 kilograms of crayfish with a market value of 20,000 yuan.

To prevent crayfish escaping from the rice field, steel plates were installed around the field. There are fewer rice plants in the field than usual, however, water plants are added to provide a better environment for the crayfish.

A key problem for raising crayfish in rice fields is to control the density.

"We found that higher density of crayfish leads them to kill each other," Zhang said.

After several rounds of tests, technicians have found a reasonable density and advised farmers to increase the number of water plants.

"Water plants can not only provide shelter for crayfish but also reduce the temperature of water, which is very important for crayfish," Hu said.



• Contestant on song

A contestant takes the stage at the 2016 Shanghai Citizen Festival Traditional Chinese Operas Competition held in Jiading earlier this month. Classic excerpts from Peking Opera, Kunqu Opera and other local operas were performed, including "Journey to the West," "Ode to the Pear Tree" and "Dream of the Red Chamber."

Maker spaces ideal for business innovators

Li Huacheng and Tom Qian

A MAP of maker spaces in Jiading has been published online. The number of such spaces has risen from 27 by end of 2015 to 37 currently. Their total area is nearly 250,000 square meters and altogether 1,403 enterprises have been set up in maker spaces.

Maker spaces have become a source of vitality for scientific innovation as they are flexible, have all elements of a business startup and provide easy access for investors.

Many young people start their work before 8am at the Internet of Things incubator in Juyuan New Area. Zhang Wei, 26,

set up a company less than a year ago and the design, research and development have entered a new stage.

The Internet of Things incubator provides a comprehensive and professional service for Zhang, including technical consultation, financial management and testbed.

It's an ideal place for him to turn his vision into business.

As the first national level incubator in Jiading, the Internet of Things incubator has 75 enterprises and 26 enterprises have been successfully incubated with 504 intellectual properties.

Last year, 13 enterprises in the

incubator received investment of 227 million yuan (US\$35 million).

Jiading also has a number of private maker spaces in different categories.

At Rubik's Cube Community, the construction of 1,200 square meters of space has been completed, covering coffee bar, reading area, rest area, fixed office area and flexible office area for 84 member enterprises.

Since its establishment two months ago, it has hosted several activities, including one for Shanghai Jiao Tong University which attracted three business startup groups and a total investment of 50 million yuan.