

FOUR YEARS' EXPERIENCE WITH BUDDED AVOCADO TREES

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I planted my first avocado trees at South Santa Anita, in the spring of 1912. The cold winter of 1912-13 convinced me that I would have to find a warmer climate to make a success of the avocado business, which I had decided to engage in.

On April 1, 1913, I sold out and relocated at Yorba Linda, Orange County, in May, 1913. I planted 77 trees that summer and finished planting five acres in March, 1914. The trees planted in March, 1914, did much better than those put out in mid-summer, 1913.

Yorba Linda is located on rolling ground and about 20 miles in an air-line from the ocean. My place is at an elevation of 500 feet, and the trees are planted 24 feet apart on the equilateral system, irrigating better on account of the lay of the land.

I lost six Harmans, and two Tafts, from sunburn and one Harman from wind when first put out in 1913, because they were not properly protected from the sun and wind.

All trees set out in 1914 and since are staked, shaded from the noonday sun, and the trunk protected, for the first year, with paper mattress, such as newspapers are printed on. The second year the trunk is protected with whitewash, (Wickson formula). After the second year, if trees are not headed out too high, they will protect themselves from sunburn. I am now letting all of my trees branch out low, as it protects them against the wind, of which we have considerable, and sunburn, gives a larger and stronger trunk, and holds the moisture much better than when kept trimmed up.

I think 24 to 30 inches is as high as any avocado tree should be headed out, and this heading out should be done in the nursery on all strong growing trees. Some of the Harmans first planted were headed out at 48 inches, which is entirely too high. Of course, trees only 18 to 24 inches high when planted will have to be taken care of in the orchard.

It is a serious mistake in my judgment to plant out any number of avocado trees, expecting to water them through the weir once per month. On heavy soil, well cultivated after each watering, one can raise the strong growing kinds, but when they come into bearing if not watered every week or ten days during warm or hot spells in the summer, they will drop their fruit.

Of the thin-skinned varieties, the Harman has proved the most vigorous grower and the most symmetrical tree, but practically all of its fruit matured to date has had the skin cracked open in several places. It furthermore has quite a large seed for the amount of edible matter. I will bud them all over just as quickly as a first class, winter-bearing fruit shows up.

The Queretaro is a strong, upright grower and a good fruiter for its age, but the fruit is

smaller, 6 to 10 ounces, and the seed is larger than one had a right to expect from the description published in the Association's official booklet.

Of the thick skinned varieties, the Fuerte and the Taft are the best growing and spreading trees. The spread almost equals the height.

The Fuerte and healthy Dickeys are the best fruiterers up to date. Of the 50 Fuertes planted, all are fruiting with from two to 54 fruits per tree at the time of writing, October 10, 1916. The 16 healthy Dickeys have from six to 80 fruits. I planted 50 Dickeys, have dug out 25, and there are nine more that may have to go, as they have a slight tinge of yellow, but of the 16 healthy trees one could not ask for a better grower and fruiter at their age.

The Grande is making a good growth, and of the two trees I have, each has one fruit that will now weigh close to one pound.

Most of the Tafts blossomed, and quite a number set fruit. One tree had over 60 fruits from the size of a pea to that of a cherry, but they all dropped off except four, two on one tree and one each on two other trees.

Of the hardshell varieties, the Rey, Linda, Queen and Knight are all making good growth for the time set out. The Knight is an extra good grower, and its new foliage is a beautiful bronze, different from any of my other varieties. The Linda has the drooping habit, the same as the Grande and practically all other trees bearing large fruit.

The following table shows all varieties planted:

BUDED AVOCADOS

Varieties Planted	No. Trees	Date Planted	Commenced Blossoming	REMARKS	OF WHOM PURCHASED
Harman	50	8-12-13	10-1-14	Had 12 fruit, 1915, and about 10 dozen 1916.	E. K. French
Taft	27	8-12-13	4-1-16	About 50 per cent blossomed and quite a number set fruit, but all dropped off except 4.	E. K. French
Harman	48	3-1-14	8-18-16		E. K. French
Pollock	3	3-1-14	4-1-16	Proved to be Millers instead of Pollocks.	E. K. French
Chappelow	2	3-1-14	10-1-15	Dropped all fruit except 6.	E. K. French
Ganter	2	3-1-14	12-22-15	One dozen fruit on two trees.	West India Gardens
Dickey	50	3-12-14	3-10-16	to 80 fruit now on each healthy tree.	West India Gardens
Fuerte	50	3-12-14	11-15-15	to 54 fruit now on each tree.	West India Gardens
Queretaro	10	3-12-14	11-1-15	to 30 fruit on each tree now maturing; all trees bearing.	West India Gardens
Atlixco	10	3-12-14	3-10-16	All fruit dropped.	West India Gardens
Murrieta	2	3-12-14		Cannot get trees to grow.	West India Gardens
Sinaloa	3	3-12-14		Poor growers.	West India Gardens
Grande	2	3-12-14	3-1-16	Have one fruit on each tree.	West India Gardens
Redondo	1	3-12-14		Proved to be a Fuerte.	West India Gardens
Trapp	1	3-12-14	4-1-16	Fruit dropped.	West India Gardens
Verde	1	8-5-14		Could not get it to grow.	West India Gardens
Popocatepetl	1	8-5-14		Making good growth.	West India Gardens
Volcan	1	8-5-14		Making good growth.	West India Gardens
Lyon	1	2-16-15		Lived only two weeks, account of being raised in a box. Roots dead when received.	West India Gardens
Rey	2	3-5-15		Making good growth for time out.	Armstrong Nursery
Linda	2	3-5-15		Making good growth for time out.	E. E. Knight
Queretaro	7	3-7-16		Doing nicely.	E. E. Knight
Fuerte	12	3-7-16		Doing nicely.	Budded from my own trees.
Sharpless	2	3-8-16		Making fair growth.	Hart & Barber
Blakeman	1	3-9-16		Making fair growth.	Hart & Barber
Solano	1	3-9-16		Making fair growth.	Hart & Barber
Val de Flor	1	3-9-16		Making fair growth.	Hart & Barber
Perfecto	1	3-13-16		Making good growth.	A. B. Williams
Perfecto	1	3-20-16		Proved to be a Grande.	A. B. Williams
Knight	2	3-20-16		Extra good grower.	E. E. Knight
Queen	1	5-19-16		Good grower.	E. E. Knight
Surprise	1	9-14-16		Starting fairly well.	Armstrong Nursery
Walker's Prolific	2	3-1-14	3-1-16	Profuse bloomer; dropped all fruit.	E. K. French