

**EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER FROM S. F. MOZNETTE,
ENTOMOLOGIST, MIAMI. FLA.**

"I regret that it will be impossible for me to prepare a paper at this time as much as I would like. This is due to the fact that I will leave shortly for Cuba and the Bahamas Islands to study conditions relative to the avocado and mango in these localities, especially to gather information as to parasites possible of introduction into Florida, to be used against the injurious pests we have here. However, this letter may possibly be of some interest to the growers of the avocado in California. I am in hopes that some time soon I may be able to attend one of your interesting meetings which you hold in California.

"You inquire relative to the behavior of the various avocados we have here in Florida. Generally the avocado is a heavy feeder and likes plenty of water for its best performance. What I really had in mind when I mentioned hybrids to you was, not so much whether the particular variety would be hardy, but the character of the stock. The Mexican avocado with us here has a rather poor root system, and when grown under dry conditions, where the moisture is not conserved by proper mulching will not do much. Perhaps with some of your strains in California such as the Colorado, where the trees have not sufficiently established themselves and have not developed sufficient root system for the trees proper development, the trees may be constitutionally weak. Perhaps this is the cause of the spotting which develops on the fruit with this variety. The Guatemalan varieties with us here develop a splendid root system with a deep tap root. If these two strains could be crossed so that you get a happy medium in a hybrid, which under your conditions will be resistant and especially possessing a good root system capable of supplying the tree with the necessary water for proper development, a cross of value might result. Under our conditions, where the avocado does not obtain the proper amount of water for development, trees develop a shriveling and drying of the leaves, physiological spotting of the fruit, etc.

"As stated in my previous letter, recently a number of most promising hybrids have been developed at the Plant Introduction Garden here at Miami, Fla., which bid fair to aid greatly in the future development of the avocado industry in Florida as regards both stock and trees."