

Variety Tests at Vista

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The variety collection which I have maintained at my home ranch at Vista is about 8 miles from the sea as the crow flies. Only low rolling hills intervene, and the sea breeze is cool and damp, making the location classify more as coast influence rather than intermediate. The latter applies more properly to the eastern part of the Vista Irrigation District.

After the freeze of January 1937 defoliated all the trees in the collection and ruined the fruit as well as the blossom buds for the succeeding crop, I decided that it was an opportune time to graft over to Fuerte such of the varieties as I felt had been sufficiently tested over several years to indicate their adaptability to this location.

Accordingly I selected 20 varieties for top-working. It may be well to record my conclusions in regard to the value of these.

Banana Lyon—This variety was grafted by a professional grafter by mistake, into one of my trees. It has never been added to the Check-List, but as long as it was in and growing I let it fruit several years. I consider it worthless as it is too soft and thin-skinned to ship, and cracks badly on the tree.

Benedict—At this location, size and quality not as good as it is in the interior. Not suited to coast areas.

Carabas—A very high quality green summer Guatemalan, but much too shy bearing to be worthwhile. Seldom produced over a dozen fruit on a fair sized, five year old graft.

Carlsbad—An excellent fruit and a good bearer. Well suited to the conditions here. Regretted to top-work it, but did so for the sake of reducing volume of my miscellaneous pickings.

Duke—Somewhat too near the coast to do well. Size, yield, and quality were all below normal for this variety when grown inland.

Garcia—A good bearer, but not a commercial fruit. Too large, handles poorly, seeds too loose and too large cavity.

Itzamna—Very poor bearer. At 8 years of age had borne only one crop and that in response to girdling.

Kashlan—A strong grower and tremendous bearer. Fruit subject to serious drop before maturity. Not of good eating quality. Not commercial.

Linda—Very heavy bearer in alternate years. Fruit too large to be commercial. Not of particular good quality at this location.

Matney—Fruit of fair quality, but very shy bearer of normal fruit. Bears great quantities of small seedless fruits.

Mary Garden—Heavy bearer of fruit which is excellent for home use. Too soft to ship. Dark colored and rough exterior. Not commercial.

Mayapan—Very regular and heavy bearer, but marketability so poor as to make it practically worthless commercially.

Millie C.—An excellent fruit for late summer. Black, of good appearance and eating quality. Exceptionally small seed. At this location too shy a bearer to be commercial.

Nimlioh—Very heavy bearer in alternate years. Fruit of good quality, but too large for market.

Prince—Heavy bearer in alternate years. Fruit too large, and not very good eating quality.

Puebla—This located somewhat too near the sea. Fruit not uniform, not very good quality, unreliable bearer here.

Taft—Bears fairly well here, but fruit will not stay on tree until fully mature. Fruit has fine appearance, and would be of value if it would hold until oil is fully developed. Has to be picked by June.

Thompson—At this location has not shown any of the Thompson spot complained of elsewhere. A very heavy and regular bearer. Fruit not of good enough eating quality to be commercial.

Topa Topa—Too near the coast for this Mexican to do well.

Worsham—Very heavy and regular bearer. Fruit has too large seed, and does not handle well. Season January and February. Not commercial.