

California Avocado Society 1947 Yearbook 32: 12-14

Report of the Variety Committee on Avocados California Avocado Society, June 21, 1947

The general program of the avocado committee of the California Avocado Society may be stated in one sentence. Its purposes are to investigate and study new varieties which appear to have promise, to make observations on the performance of all varieties both experimental and those recommended for commercial planting, to disseminate information gained for the benefit of planters and to foster the study of industry problems by the University of California, the United States Department of Agriculture and other institutions and organizations.

In the prosecution of the work we are not overlooking the fact that the number of recommended varieties may increase although an effort is being made to limit the number of varieties as far as possible to a minimum and it is not likely that more than 2 or 3 varieties will be recommended for a single district.

Some varieties which have not proved satisfactory for a given district have been and are being planted commercially. The industry will be developed on a more efficient basis if growers plant only those varieties which have been proved to be satisfactory.

A more profitable enterprise will result if the grower obtains all the information possible before planting. The County Farm Advisors in any of the southern counties are in a position to supply much of the necessary data and give advice on varieties, soils and other factors concerned.

In order to economically utilize the land when the trees are in full bearing the habit of growth of the variety to be planted should be known.

Varieties Recommended For Commercial Planting

The list of varieties recommended for commercial planting remains the same as last year. A brief description of these varieties is to be found in the variety report for 1946 (page 13; 1946 Yearbook).

However the Hass variety has this year been recommended for planting in two more of the described areas. It is now included in the list for inland San Diego County, in which are located Fallbrook, Vista, and Escondido communities. Also the coastal area of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties is now considered desirable for the planting of MacArthur, Hass and in some locations the Fuerte.

Growers in their respective districts are urged to top-work unprofitable varieties where practicable to varieties which have proved satisfactory for their district.

Table I lists the five varieties recommended for commercial planting in the several areas of Southern California with a brief description of each. Table II gives the recommendations according to areas.

TABLE I

Var.	Mkt.	Season	Color	Oz.	Shape	% Oil	Skin	Seed	Race
Fuerte	Excel	Nov.-June	Green	6-16	Pyr.	18-22	Leathery	Med.	Hyb.
Hass	Good	Apr.-Oct.	Black	6-10	Ovoid	18-22	Med.	Small	Guat.
Nabal	Good	June-Sept.	Green	14-30	Round	18-22	Thick	Med.	Guat.
MacArthur	Fair	July-Oct.	Green	10-14	Pyr.	12-16	Med.	Med.	Guat.
Anaheim	Fair	June-Sept.	Green	12-24	Ovoid	10-14	Med.	Med.	Guat.

TABLE II

Varieties Recommended for Commercial Planting According to Certain Described Areas in Southern California

1. San Diego County, Inland	Fuerte, Hass
2. San Diego County, Coastal	Anaheim, Hass, Nabal
3. Whittier, Rivera, North Orange County	Fuerte, Hass
4. Southern Orange County	Fuerte
5. San Gabriel, Foothills, Los Angeles	Fuerte, Hass
6. Ventura, Santa Barbara Coastal	Fuerte, Hass, MacArthur
Note: Selected strains of Fuerte are meeting with success in several locations in this area.	
7. Ventura County, Intermediate Ojai, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Camarillo Heights	Fuerte
8. Interior Riverside, Corona, San Bernardino	Fuerte

Experimental Varieties On Trial

New varieties are placed on the registered list each year. The complete list of registered varieties is included in the Yearbook each year with descriptions of the later ones.

The list of experimental varieties on trial is about the same as in 1945. The several additional ones being propagated are the new ones on the registered list and others not yet registered.

Plans are being made to follow up more of the unregistered seedlings, which have come to the attention of the committee because of requests for testing. The mechanics of this enlarged program will require the full cooperation of members of the committee and others interested in varieties. Some of those varieties which are being tried under varying climatic conditions are the Tantlinger, Twomey, Rincon, Frey, Bonita, Encanada, Halsted, Regina and Nowels. Others, which have been studied for some time, have shown little or no promise except in limited areas. Some of those are not now propagated experimentally except possibly in those limited areas.

An extensive project was started this past year at Encinitas and Carlsbad which includes the top working of many trees of less desirable varieties to a large number of new experimental varieties including those mentioned above and some others which are not promising in other areas. Quite a number of growers are cooperating with the

Society in this project. During the coming year a number of other varieties will be added. Other projects in the study of varieties have been established in Santa Barbara county by the Agricultural Extension Service and the Farm Bureau, at U.C.L.A., at the Citrus Experiment Station and by many individual growers.

These growers especially are to be commended for their interest in this work.

Avocado Research

The study of sun-blotch continues at the Citrus Experiment Station carried on by Dr. Wallace and Dr. Zentmyer. Dr. Wallace is obtaining some indication that a method may be found by which one can quickly determine the presence of this virus disease in avocado trees. This will be of great importance in registering trees free from sun-blotch. The studies being conducted at U.C.L.A. on the bearing habits of the avocado and the factors concerned, the breeding program, study of root stocks, pest control and others of great value, should be continued.

Among other projects, which should be given attention, are fertilization and a study of by-products.

The variety committee has met several times during the past year and has visited many orchards studying the performance of certain plantings and individual trees of many different varieties in counties from Santa Barbara south to San Diego County. This program will be continued during the coming year.

Likewise as already stated more attention will be asked of those who are willing to give the time in reporting on the performance of new seedlings and newly named varieties.