

REPORT OF THE AVOCADO VARIETY COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING 1955

Marvin B. Rounds
Chairman

The continued interest in the study and investigation of seedlings and the follow-up observation of propagated progeny of those which appear to be promising varieties, leads us to believe that growers of the avocado industry are more strongly than ever of the opinion that a group of varieties must be selected from which each area reasonably capable of growing avocados may find one or more varieties useful as the basis for a profitable enterprise.

During the last year variety conferences have been held in each of the avocado counties in Southern California. They were held in the interests of all growers anxious to learn of the experiences of other growers who had grown varieties with which they had not been familiar. Discussions on all varieties under trial were taken up. The counties in which the California Avocado Society held these conferences were Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange and San Diego.

San Bernardino County growers were asked to the Riverside activity.

The list of avocado varieties now recommended by the California Avocado Society for planting on a commercial basis is found in the table below:

*RECOMMENDED VARIETIES FOR COMMERCIAL PLANTING
1955*

Variety	Market	Season	Color	Ounces	Shape	Oil	Skin	Seed
Anaheim	Fair	June-Sept.	Green	12-24	Ovoid	Low	Medium	Medium
Fuerte	Exc.	Nov.-June	Green	6-16	Pyr.	High	Medium	Medium
Hass	Good	Apr.-Oct.	Black	6-10	Ovoid	High	Thick	Small
MacArthur	Fair	July-Oct.	Green	10-14	Pyr.	Medium	Medium	Medium
Rincon	Good	Jan.-Apr.	Green	6-10	Pyr.	High	Medium	Medium

Recommended Varieties for Commercial Planting According to Areas

AREA I. FUERTE. HASS.

This part of San Diego County includes the communities of Fallbrook, Vista, Escondido, La Mesa and intervening districts. Both varieties are susceptible to cold, the Hass being

more tender than the Fuerte.

Experimental varieties under trial in Area I which are more resistant to cold than the Fuerte and Hass are the Zutano, Bacon and Jalna. (See alphabetical list of experimental varieties in this report.)

AREA II. ANAHEIM. HASS.

This is the coastal strip in San Diego County. It extends inland about three miles. The Fuerte is not generally a producer close to the coast although there may be certain districts where the Fuerte has borne profitable crops.

Several experimental varieties are being planted in Area II. The most important is probably the Wurtz. Another is the Frey which is a consistent bearer and is very precocious.

The Harmes, a third variety, is being tried especially at Carlsbad and Encinitas. (See alphabetical list of experimental varieties in this report.)

AREA III. NO RECOMMENDATIONS.

This is the valley floor part or the more coastal part of Orange County. The important experimental variety in this area is the Bacon and this has some promise of being recommended for commercial rating in the near future. The Zutano, Rincon and Elsie are also experimental varieties for Orange County.

AREA IV. FUERTE. HASS.

This is the eastern or hill section of Orange County. Wind may be a factor some seasons especially for the Hass. The Bacon is also an important experimental variety in this-part of Orange County, especially in colder sections. (See alphabetical experimental list.)

AREA V. NO RECOMMEND AT ION FOR FLOOR OF VALLEY. HASS FOR HIGH ELEVATIONS.

This is Los Angeles County, the eastern part below the mountains.

In this county the Hass does exceedingly well in La Habra Heights, North Whittier Heights, and other high elevated sections in the eastern part of Los Angeles County. The Zutano grows and bears very well in Area V. For cold areas it has been recommended for trial and many acres have been planted.

The Mayo (covocado) originated in this valley and is being propagated there. One grower of Mayo has usually marketed his crop in late October at a good return.

While the Fuerte has been removed from the recommendations for Los Angeles County, there are some protected districts where good results have been reported.

A large number of experimental varieties are being grown in this area, especially Emerald, Elsie, Rincon and others. (See alphabetical experimental list.)

AREA VI. HASS. MacARTHUR. RINCON. ANAHEIM.

This area includes the coastal zones of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Important experimental varieties for this area are Corona, Bonita, Mesa, and Wurtz. There are other varieties, a few trees of which have been planted in small numbers and have shown some promise. Among those which are being tried are Zutano, Regina, Halsted, and Edranol.

In at least one section of this area, near Oxnard, the Dickinson variety has proved profitable for many growers.

AREA VII. HASS. MacARTHUR. RINCON.

This is the intermediate area of Ventura County and includes the communities of Camarillo, Saticoy, and Santa Paula. Varieties under trial in this area are Corona, Mesa, Bonita, Zutano, Halsted, Regina, and others. (See alphabetical list of experimental varieties in this report.)

AREA VIIa. FUERTE. HASS.

This includes that part of Ventura County lying east of Santa Paula including the communities of Fillmore, Piru and Ojai. Experimental varieties include many which are also being tried in the intermediate area. One large ranch in this area east of Piru is experimenting with the Yama and also with many of the varieties being tried in many other districts of Southern California. (See alphabetical list of experimental varieties.)

AREA VIII. HASS.

Included in Area VIII are the parts of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties in and near the cities of Riverside, San Bernardino, Redlands, Corona, Arlington, and those districts where subtropical fruits are grown in Temescal Canyon and Hemet Valley. The Hass should only be planted in locations where frost usually does not occur. The list of experimental varieties includes the names of many of those being grown in more inland districts as well as a few closer to coastal areas.

In some of the plots in those inland districts the Ryan, Nowels, Zutano, Clifton, Emerald, Wright, and Boley are a few of those which have been producing fairly well in some locations.

The Fuerte has been taken off the recommended list for that area but like some other general areas, occasionally because, of local conditions, Fuertes have been fairly successful in that restricted section.

Alphabetical List of Important Experimental Varieties

Bacon. The tree is a vigorous upright grower resistant to frost. Good to plant in cold areas. Will produce early. In most cases appears to set a crop annually. Fruit is mostly oval and probably always has a smoother and clearer skin in a coastal district. Fruit may be quite large under some conditions of growth.

In Orange County it is marketed from November to March, mostly in December.

In Ventura County it has been reported as producing a good quality fruit.

Bonita. The tree is spreading but is somewhat of a central leader type. In the coastal area, Area VI, it is giving good results as a summer fruit. A pyriform shape fruit, 6 to 10 ounces, and green.

Clifton. In inland districts it produces a fair crop of green fruit which is picked October to November.

Corona. This variety gives some evidence of not being too vigorous a grower but is a consistent bearer of green, good quality fruit 8 to 10 ounces in weight. It is being tried mostly in the coastal areas and is quite popular with those who have planted it.

Elsie. A patented variety. A tall growing tree, sometimes with a very good crop. Production varies greatly. A good, green, oval shape fruit frequently 8 to 10 ounces.

Emerald. It has produced quite well in the plots at the Citrus Experiment Station and in other locations. The fruit is pyriform with a thickened neck, clear skin and has good skin texture wherever tried. The Emerald is quite resistant to cold. In inland areas the maturity period is December to February.

Frey. Has been tried and planted mostly in San Gabriel Valley where it originated. Fruit is green, is usually too large. Trees precocious in bearing. Bears annually, a good crop. Very susceptible to frost. Matures in Los Angeles County in May.

Halsted. The tree grows something like the Fuerte and probably with about the same frost resistance. The fruit is green, about 6—9 ounces in weight. It is mature probably in December but later in Area VI.

Harmes. This fruit originated in Carlsbad and does its best in the coastal area. The tree is vigorous in its growth, bears quite consistently. A good quality green fruit and is being tried in the San Diego coastal area in a large way.

Jalna. Grown for early fruit which matures in October. Production last few years on trees in San Diego County quite good. These trees are quite young. Fruits are green and have a good appearance, 6 to 8 ounces.

Lois. In San Diego County production is good, 6 to 10 ounce fruit, green, and should be tried more than is the case. Production good in Ventura County.

Mayo. (Covocado) Grown quite largely on ranch near Covina. Matures in October to November. Fruit green. Good crop each year. Large percent of crop is 8% oil by November 1.

Mesa. This tree is a Fuerte seedling originating on high ground at Carpinteria in Santa

Barbara County. It produces well in that county and is being tried to some extent in Ventura County. Fruit is green, oval, and weighs 6-10 ounces. A late spring to early summer fruit.

Nowels. This has a good crop usually alternating every second year. Has proved quite profitable at Corona. The fruit is green and weighs 6 to 8 ounces. In San Diego County growers have had good production from the Nowels.

Regina. Regina is a vigorous growing tree only moderately resistant to frost. Produces a good crop alternately. The fruit is green, pyriform, weight 6 to 8 ounces. It does well in Ventura County and the skin texture is much better in all coastal areas.

Ryan. One cannot depend on production. Probable production more sure in inland areas. Good green fruit. Usually large seed. Mature and should be picked in May or no later than June 15.

Silliman. This variety has been grown successfully in the La Habra Heights district producing a good crop annually, although the skin texture is much better when grown in the coastal zone. It weighs 6 to 8 ounces, a green fruit maturing about May or June in intermediate districts.

Wurtz. Produces a dense tree with fruit covered by leaf growth. A good pyriform shape, green fruit, but a large seed. Matures during summer on the San Diego coast. Showing signs of being a good producer in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Zutano. A very vigorous upright grower. It is precocious and an annual bearer of a good flavored green fruit. In inland districts, it is subject to end spot. In the San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles County, it is marketable in October or November. The tree is quite resistant to frost and has been quite generally planted on the floor of the San Gabriel Valley. The Zutano has been planted on many properties in Ventura County. It can be picked in January and February in that county.

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