REPORT OF THE SUBTROPICAL FRUIT VARIETIES COMMITTEE

The chairman of this committee, Dr. C. A. Schroeder, is presently exploring in Central and South America and doing research work. He requested me to report on the year's activities.

As you may know, the function of this committee is to keep posted on the many varieties of subtropical fruit trees growing in Southern California and evaluate them as to their potentialities as commercial crops or as family orchard trees. The committee also endeavors to be well informed on the named varieties of the various fruits. Some of these have been well described and are in the committee files. The committee occasionally makes supplementary reports in order to disseminate its findings to the Society membership.

The committee is fortunate in having Dr. C. A. Schroeder, Assistant Professor of Subtropical Horticulture at U.C.L.A. as chairman. He is not only exceptionally well qualified from a technical standpoint but he is a truly dedicated individual on this subject. He thoroughly enjoys this field and infects every one he contacts with his enthusiasm. His excellent relations with the Extension Service people makes for very interesting and intensively planned field trips.

The principal activities of the committee are periodic field trips to the several growing areas. Dr. Schroeder plans these excursions to coincide with the fruiting habits of the fruits to be observed. Santa Barbara and San Diego counties are favorites because of the wide variety of subtropicals grown there. A trip to each of these counties was made during the past year. The usual practice is for the committee chairman to notify the local Farm Advisor well in advance and ask his assistance. The Farm Advisor sets an agreeable date and plans an itinerary. Notices are sent to the committee; they rendezvous at the indicated time and place and Dr. Schroeder and the Farm Advisor conduct the tour, describing each fruit, its characteristics, bearing habits, etc. with round table discussions following.

The subtropical fruits which presently have the most interest are: Macadamia (commercial and family), Cherimoya (commercial and family), Sapote (same, but less), Loquat (same, but less), Carob (increasing interest), Lychee (increasing interest). Others which have real potentialities but little is presently being done: Guava, Pitanga and Passion Fruit. The Mango is a marvelous fruit, years of hard and valuable work have been done by Capt. Bucklew of Encinitas but the locations where it does well are very rare.

The committee will welcome suggestions and questions from members of the Society.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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