

Report from the Nurserymen's Section

The Nurserymen's Section exists for the purpose of furthering the goals of the California Avocado Society and to further efforts to improve the quality of avocado trees produced in the nurseries of California. All interested parties are encouraged to participate.

The annual dinner meeting of the Nurserymen's Section was held October 5, 1984, at the Bahía Motor Hotel in San Diego. The program included presentations by Dr. Paul Desjardins on his research work with the sunblotch viroid and by Mr. Robert Fissell on his work with plant patents and licensing for the University of California.

The Nurserymen's Section, in 1984, contributed \$800 to research on a new, faster, and more reliable method of detection of the sunblotch viroid. The research is being conducted by Dr. Paul Desjardins, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Riverside.

The Nurserymen's Section's cash balance dropped during the year from \$2,051.92 (September 23, 1983) to \$1,408.92 (September 30, 1984).

Over \$13,000 in G-6 rootstock royalties was collected by the Society in 1984 and remitted to the University of California to benefit avocado root rot research programs.

G-755 Propagation Licensing Agreements are now available to all nurserymen in California. The G-755 rootstock is thought to be a selection of *Persea schiedeana*. Based on the preliminary results of several root rot test plots, the G-755 appears to be quite resistant to avocado root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*). Nurserymen licensed by the State of California who wish to be licensed for the propagation of G-755 or wish to obtain more information can contact the California Avocado Society. A royalty of \$1.10 per tree will be collected by the Society, of which \$1.00 will be remitted to the University of California for application to further root rot study and research and \$.10 will be retained by the Society to help defray administrative costs.

California nurserymen interested in obtaining propagation licensing agreements for the commercial propagation of the new avocado cultivare, "Gwen," "Esther," and "Whitsell," should contact:

Mr. Robert Fissell
Patent, Trademark, and Copyright Office
University of California
2490 Charming Way
Berkeley, California 94720

Respectfully submitted
H. Craig Laursen, President
Nurserymen's Section
California Avocado Society