

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Tom W. Embleton**



Dr. Tom Embleton received the Avocado Society's Award of Honor in 1987. At the presentation, his colleague, Robert Platt had this to say.

Tom was born in Oklahoma; but at an early age came with his parents to Tuscon, Arizona where he attended high school. In 1941, he graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.S. degree in horticulture. He saw service as an officer with the U.S. Army in the European Theater during World War II.

In 1946, he went to Cornell University for graduate study and received his Ph.D. in pomology. In May 1950, he was offered and accepted a position as Assistant Horticulturist at the Citrus Experiment Station, University of California, Riverside. He remained there, advancing in position to Horticulturist and Professor of Horticulture until his retirement in 1986.

His early avocado research was directed toward nitrogen application and use by the Fuerte, when the Fuerte was the predominant variety. He showed then that too much nitrogen reduced production -- beautiful trees, but less fruit. As the variety picture changed, he directed his research toward the newer varieties -- with much of it, naturally, to Hass.

If, as a grower, you have fertilized your avocado trees and have used leaf analysis to guide your fertilizer practices, you are indebted to Dr. Tom Embleton for developing and refining the leaf analysis standards to guide you.