

## AVOCADOS

Mr. Frank Frost of Success, Tulare County, is anxious for information as to avocado or alligator pears. He has a few hundred small seedlings started and as he is in an almost entirely frostless section, wishes to plant as extensively as is wise. He wishes to know as to best soil conditions and as to whether they will stand with roots in decidedly moist soil: what is the best time for budding? Seedlings are now about a foot high.

The avocado is a new fruit to horticulturists and very definite information cannot be given. Seedlings are unsatisfactory; a few bear good fruit, while many do not bear at all. Therefore budding is necessary. Nurserymen are now experimenting with budding, endeavoring to find best methods. The ring or the patch bud has shown best results, but even with them the percentage of successful buds is very low. Some nurserymen have succeeded best with the ring bud, the bud wood having been forced to ripen buds before cutting from the tree by cutting off a part of the leaf. A little later after a partial recovery from this mutilation the remainder of the leaf is cut off, leaving a part of the stem. This will drop off when the wood is fully ripened, and then the scion may be cut off and the buds used.

As to period of the year, springtime is doubtless the best, but this is a question upon which more definite information can be given later.

Soil and climatic requirements are very similar to those of the orange. If anything, the avocado will stand less frost and is more sensitive to the heat than is the orange. It is supposed that the warmer coast sections offer most favorable location though it is probable that varieties will be developed which will do well under valley conditions. The soil must be warm and fairly well drained.