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## REPORT OF THE SUBTROPICAL FRUIT VARIETY COMMITTEE, 1958

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### PART I

One new was submitted to the variety committee this year for registration and description.

"Gossman", a new avocado variety, was submitted by Mr. Otis Gossman, Goulds, and Florida. It is growing in a grove on Hainlin Drive, west of Goulds. The tree is eight years of age and is upright in habit, similar to Lula. The foliage is fairly dense.

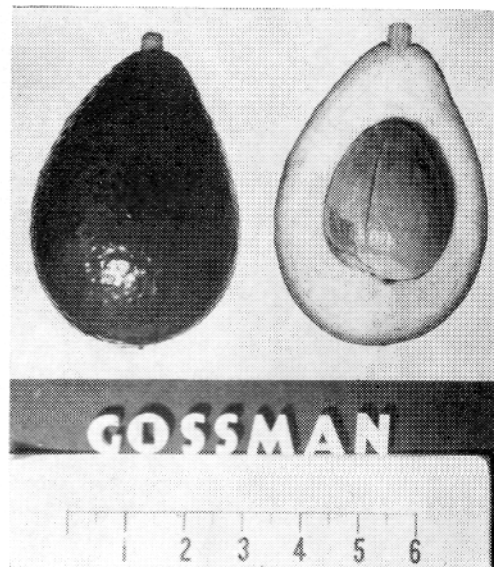


Figure 1

The fruits received for sampling weighed from 12 to 26 ounces, with an average weight of about 20 ounces. The fruit is oblong to slightly necked in shape, with a dark green color and a rough, pebbly skin. The flesh has good texture and flavor. The fruit is illustrated in Figure 1.

The tree has borne a heavy crop consistently for the last several years. The fruit is

mature in January, February and March, and has possible value as a late variety.

## **PART 2**

Since we just have one variety of avocado to describe this year, your Variety Committee will take this opportunity to acquaint you with work being done on the selection and identification of commercial varieties of avocados.

As a result of many requests by growers, a study has been started on avocado varieties. This study is not complete so this report will be an attempt to state what has been done and what our future plans are for this project. A set of standards was drawn up with the cooperation of several growers and the results are as follows:

Any variety recommended for commercial use should:

1. Have been grown long enough and in sufficient quantity to be proved.
2. Produce fruit that the market will accept which implies the following characteristics among others:
  - a. Size-not too large; range may be from ten (10) to eighteen (18) ounces.
  - b. Skin-green, reasonably smooth, not too thin and not too hard.
  - c. Should stand normal handling without showing scratches and bruises too badly.
  - d. Eating qualities should be acceptable although it is not necessary to limit recommended varieties to the very top quality fruit if they have enough other desirable characteristics.
  - e. Should keep well if handled properly, with a reasonably long shelf life.
  - f. Should not be unduly injured by the temperatures necessary to store it.
  - g. Should be of regular shape, not unduly subject to deformities.
3. The varieties should be satisfactory from the growers' standpoint.
  - a. Trees should be vigorous and reasonably free from diseases and insect pests.
  - b. Should bear heavily with no pronounced tendency toward alternate bearing if given good care.
  - c. Should have no undesirable growth characteristics such as weak limbs and inadequate root system.
  - d. Other things being equal, a small low-headed variety is better than one that makes a large, tall tree. The more resistant to cold a variety is, the better, but for Dade County we have to accept tender varieties.

As a starting point for this program fifty forms were sent out to leading growers in the area and each was asked to select the eight varieties best suited for commercial production with respect to production, size, storage, refrigeration, handling, shelf life, cold hardiness, and consumer acceptance. Of these fifty forms, thirteen were returned.

Selections by growers and shippers showed as follows:

- 1- Waldins-13
- 2- Booth Eight-13
- 3- Lula-12
- 4- Taylor-8
- 5- Pollock-8
- 6- Booth Seven-8
- 7- Hall-7

Another phase of this project which is now underway but not completes enough to have accurate figures is the compiling of production records on the above named varieties. Work is also being done by the Quality and Improvement Maintenance Section of the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture on quality, shipments, storage, maturity, and other factors pertaining to the production of a high quality avocado.

The purpose of this work will be to assimilate information that will be helpful in determining the best varieties to propagate for commercial production.

Another phase of variety work being done by the Avocado and Lime Committee and the County Agent's Office is the selection and photographing of the different varieties of fruit, and also the listing of identifying characteristics particular to the individual varieties. This information will be used to familiarize the grower with important identification characteristics of the varieties which make up the basis of our maturity regulations. The results will be published for distribution to the growers and also used in training sessions for identifying varieties.