

**Proceedings of the First International Tropical Fruit Short Course: The Avocado.**  
J.W. Sauls, R.L. Phillips and L.K. Jackson (eds.). Gainesville: Fruit Crops Dept., Florida  
Cooperative Extension Service. Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of  
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## **PREFACE**

**Julian W. Sauls**

The idea for a short course covering tropical fruit production was conceived by a group of Extension Fruit Crops faculty in response to the need for more intensive educational programs in tropical fruits, as expressed by various county extension agents. After discussion with administration and county agents, the idea was proposed to the research faculty at the Agricultural Research and Education Center at Homestead, FL.

Thus, a planning committee of researchers, growers and Extension personnel was created to develop the First International Tropical Fruit Short Course – The Avocado, which was successfully conducted in Miami Beach, FL, November 5-10, 1976, and was attended by over 125 people from 24 countries and 4 states.

The Short Course was divided into 3 separate but closely related educational experiences: 1) lecture and discussion; 2) field trips and 3) text. During the lectures and discussions, internationally recognized authorities presented current information on selected aspects of avocado production. During the week, field trips were taken to the USDA Subtropical Horticulture Research Station, the University of Florida's Agricultural Research and Education Center at Homestead and to a local avocado orchard (Bill Krome), avocado nursery and avocado packinghouse (Harold Kendall).

Finally, the presentations and discussions have been assembled into this Proceedings as a permanent reference of the information presented during the Short Course.

Appreciation is expressed to the speakers for the presentations and manuscripts. Much appreciation is due the planning committee for working out the details of the Short Course so that it would run smoothly. The planning committee and local arrangement committee were comprised of the following people:

Dr. Carl Campbell  
Mr. Burt Colburn  
Dr. Andy Duncan  
Mr. Seymour Goldweber  
Dr. Larry Jackson  
Dr. Bob Knight  
Mr. Bill Krome

Dr. Bob McMillan  
Dr. Simon Malo  
Dr. Dick Phillips  
Dr. Hugh Popenoe  
Dr. John Popenoe  
Dr. Julian Sauls

A special thanks to the 125 growers, researchers and Extension personnel who spent their time and money to participate in this Avocado Short Course. It is hoped that the success of this program will stimulate the development of subsequent short courses dealing with other major tropical fruit crops.

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Short Course Coordinator

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