

## THE PERSEA GERMLASM RESOURCES POTENTIAL, AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ISRAELI GERMLASM BANK

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During the last 3 decades avocado seeds and graftwood were collected from different countries and introduced into Israel. The main conclusions are: 1. The diversity of the avocado resources is still very high. 2. In many places and centers of origin, important genetic material was lost for good. 3. Many other representatives of the avocado groups and avocado relatives are in an endangered situation. 4. Based on this work and other sources, the exploration and collection should be continued, in order to preserve important resistant traits. Material that was not aimed to be evaluated as cultivars or clonal rootstocks, was planted in a genepool orchard. This orchard includes about 200 trees, consisting of 148 different accessions. A list of these 148 different accessions is included in the article, with a description of their origin and related information. The Israeli avocado germplasm bank serves as a source for breeding new cultivars and rootstocks as well as the conservation of the endangered genetic material.