

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VARIETIES

WM .H. HERTRICH, *Chairman*

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The Committee

The following report of the Committee on Varieties is not as comprehensive or complete as it had been hoped to make it. Beginning with the fall of 1923, a program of field trips and investigations was laid out by the committee and the first of these taken to San Diego County. The outbreak of the foot and mouth disease in February, which has prevented inter-county trips and visits to ranches within the counties, particularly those in which the disease occurred made impossible any adequate field investigations. Consequently, the data and observations have had to be made under these limitations.

The need for a relatively small list of recommended varieties is still evident. Observations made during the marketing of the 1923 fall crop and the 1924 spring and summer crop seem to indicate a slackening up of consumption on the part of the buying public as a change from one variety to another is made, until the purchaser becomes accustomed to a new variety. The fewer varieties that a buyer has to learn, the more satisfied he will be and the more certain will be the purchases. In view of the two classes of trade now being met, that is, the fancy trade, which takes large fruit readily, and the regular trade which takes the bulk of the crop and wishes the smaller varieties, it would seem to indicate that in the future there will be a place for two varieties for each season, the demand for the large fancy fruit, however, being limited. The other reasons advanced in the past for a short list of recommended varieties still hold and it is not believed necessary to review them again at this time.

While specific recommendations on each of the varieties based on this past season's observations cannot be made, a general review of the status of all the varieties recommended, or under trial for some time, or new is believed desirable. Detailed descriptions of the older varieties have already been published in past annual reports and are not repeated here for that reason. While no additions are believed advisable to the recommended list because of insufficient observation or the lack of sufficient data on the bearing of budded trees, it has been deemed advisable to drop two from the list at the present time. These are the Sharpless and the Spinks. The reasons for the action of the committee are indicated below.

Recommended List

Fuerte—Of the recommended varieties, the Fuerte still holds the commanding position and has not been improved upon as a standard for comparison with others. In richness

and flavor this variety still maintains its lead. Its maturity during the winter and early spring when the demand has been greatest has in most cases brought very good returns. Its dull, green color has been somewhat of a disadvantage, especially as it darkens in spots when ripe and soft, which injures the external appearance. The skin is not thick enough to stand long distance shipment as well as some other varieties, but with proper care this is no serious drawback. There is room for considerable improvement in the regularity and amount of its annual; crop, particularly in some districts. Cross pollination has been tried as a possible remedy and the finding of a slower growing stock which might somewhat retard the vigorous vegetative growth of the tree might be desirable. The fruit will remain on the tree over a long period, extending during this past season from January to June.

Dickinson—The Dickinson still is well received by the buying public. The very thick skin, typical of the true Guatemalan varieties, aids its shipping qualities and its attractive purple color continues to get -a favorable reception. The flavor is good, though the oil content of this variety is rather low. The tree continues to exhibit a robust habit of growth and is a prolific bearer, but cannot endure as low temperatures as the Fuerte, Puebla or Spinks. It suffers from a pink discoloration of the flesh in some localities and sometimes it has a bitter flavor.

Puebla—The Puebla, being a late fall fruit, continues to fill a needed place in a well-planned marketing scheme for a highly flavored small-sized fruit. Its rather large seed is somewhat of a drawback, but it is not too large to cause it to lose its popularity. Being a typical Mexican variety, its thin skin does not permit as long a period of shipping and handling as do the thick skinned sorts.

In summing up the criticism on the recommended varieties, it should be stated that not one of the five varieties that have been on the recommended list up to date could be considered as even close to perfection. It is the belief of the committee that all of them will be succeeded sometime in the future, probably by hybrids or other varieties developed by seedling selection here in Southern California that will give in the first place a tree that is fairly frost resistant, robust and well proportioned in growth, possessing a good bearing habit, and bearing well-colored, fair-sized fruit of acceptable flavor with medium to small seed and which will keep and ship well.

Varieties Discontinued

The Sharpless, which is somewhat larger than the three above-mentioned, has a good skin as far as thickness and color is concerned. The color and flavor of the flesh is good. As a fruit, the variety is above the average. The tree is in most cases a rather poor grower and commercial new plantings have practically ceased. The trees are not strong enough to hold up under the heavy crop which it often bears. The season in most of Los Angeles County is May to August and the tree does not hold its fruit until fall as it does in the Tustin district. The period from blossom to maturity is from 16 to 18 months in length, thus subjecting the fruit to the hazards of two seasons. Because of the difficulties in getting uniformly strong-growing, well-shaped trees and the length of time from blossoming period to maturity have caused it to be discontinued on the recommended list for commercial plantings.

Spinks—The Spinks, while a good grower, a prolific bearer of fine colored fruit for

display purposes, develops discolored flesh, mainly in the seed cavity and also under the skin, caused by slight bruising during shipping, or from finger dents by testing the fruit for ripeness. In most cases, the seed runs large in this variety. From a standpoint of shipping and keeping quality, the Spinks does not score very highly. The skin of this variety, while beautiful in color, is not thick, nor is it leathery. The tree is unable to hold its crops against the wind with much success. The experience in marketing this fruit during the past season has been far from satisfactory, judged by the experience of the Exchange, and it is not felt that it can be longer continued on the recommended list for commercial plantings. However, because of its vigorous growth and prolific bearing and the flavor of the fruit when tree-ripened, it is still recommended for a family and backyard tree. It is at its best when picked from the tree late in the spring, when fully matured, and should find a place in all plantings of this character.

Older Varieties Still Under Observation

Lyon—This variety has been one of the most discussed varieties among all those that have been studied. Because of its fine flavored fruit and its prolific bearing habit in some sections, it has deserved attention. In many localities the trees have been poor growers and have failed to develop in a satisfactory manner. In a number of instances they have died out entirely after having been planted in orchard form. The cause of this weakness is not yet determined, but apparently, it is due to poor bud union secured with uncongenial stock. Experiments are under way looking toward the elimination of this difficulty on the part of the nurseries. The fruit itself has in certain localities developed a very bad decay on the blossom end for several seasons. This has been particularly noticeable on the Murphy Oil Company ranch in East Whittier, the old Beck place at La Habra, and the Huntington estate at San Marino. The tree is not as hardy as the Fuerte. It resembles the other true Guatemalan varieties in this respect. It is recommended for trial planting in various localities in an effort to learn more about its adaptability. If its satisfactory behavior in some districts can be duplicated elsewhere, this variety will deserve a much wider planting. At the present time a number of very promising seedlings of the Lyon are coming into fruit. These young trees exhibit the most desirable characteristics of the parent and it is hoped through this selection to secure some strong growing strains.

Taft—The Taft, of which there are a number of good-sized plantings in different sections of the country, is making a good tree, but in many cases requires from seven to nine years after budding to reach a producing stage. The fruit, when matured, is highly flavored, of good size, fair color and good skin. The season of maturity is mid-summer and the tree cannot withstand much frost.

Stephens No. 15—The 15 is a long-necked fruit of excellent appearance, and flavor. It is a favorite with some of the Los Angeles buyers, but its extreme shape is somewhat against it. The season of maturity is late winter and early spring.

Guatemalan Introductions

Knight Varieties—This group has been generally distributed throughout Southern California and has proved to need a rather frost-free location, being considerably more tender than the Fuerte. The Knight makes the best tree of the Knight varieties. The fruit is of good form, nearly round. The skin is three-thirty-seconds of an inch thick, leathery,

and of a dull green color. The color of the flesh is deep yellow and of very good flavor. The seed of this variety runs somewhat large, but is tight in the cavity. Weight, 14 to 20 ounces. This variety, at times, develops blossom end spots. Season of maturity, spring. Has been slow to come into bearing.

Linda—The Linda, one of the largest fruits grown, is somewhat too large for commercial use. The oil content of this fruit is rather low, but the flavor of a fully matured fruit is good. The shipping quality should be good on account of its substantial skin. This fruit keeps well, even after being cut. Seed is small and tight in cavity, shape obovate, weighs one to two pounds and is a spring and summer fruit. Fruits have been produced in California weighing as much as 3 ½ pounds.

Queen—The Queen has, when fully ripe, a very fine color in flesh, and a golden yellow fading to green next to the rind; at least all of the samples examined by the Committee have proven so. The flavor of the Queen is very good. The shape is not as good as that of the Linda, but the color of the skin is somewhat brighter, the thickness is the same and should prove good for shipping. Shape, pyriform; weight, 16 ounces and up. The long stem of the fruit is a disadvantage in sections where frequent winds are expected. It matures in the spring and summer. It is not perfect in shape and for this reason will be hard to pack satisfactorily.

Kist—The Kist has very little prospect of becoming a commercial fruit. All of the Knight varieties need more time and investigation to determine their bearing habits.

Popenoe Introductions

The Guatemalan varieties sent in by Wilson Popenoe are being closely observed as to their behavior, both on young budded stock and on old top worked trees. Most of them are rather tender and are, in this respect in the same class as the Knight varieties. Some of them have been described in previous reports of the Variety Committee. Others which are in bearing now and mature their fruit this season will be investigated as soon as mature samples can be obtained. It is still too soon to give any final report on any of these introductions. Adequate trial throughout Southern California must be continued over a period of years before definite conclusions can be drawn. For the most part it appears that these will be spring and summer varieties.

Nimlioh—The description of this variety will closely fit the one given for the Linda (Knight's variety) as far as shape and size are concerned. Oil content not very high. This fruit is likely to be too large for commercial use. Matures somewhat later than the Linda.

Benik—The Benik is so far one of the best of the Popenoe varieties. All indications point to this variety as having many good points. The fruit is pear-shaped, weight, around 16 ounces; color of skin, dark maroon; one-sixteenth of an inch thick. Flesh, deep yellow, with very good flavor. Seed about 2 ounces, tight in cavity. , Maturity, May and June. The Benik makes a fairly good tree.

Mayapan—This variety has shown up very well in several localities. The tree, as well as the fruit, shows very good commercial prospects. Additional investigation and time are necessary to determine a great many points before forming a final opinion. The shape of this fruit is obovate; weight, 12 to 17 ounces. Skin, dark brown, one-eighth of an inch thick, somewhat rough. Very rich, dark yellow flesh, at times mixed with dark fibers.

Seed, 1½ to 2 ounces. The fruit hangs on well in windy districts. It has been bearing regular crops for three years, coming into bearing early.

Panchoy—The Panchoy is an obovate shaped fruit; weight, 16 to 25 ounces. Skin, one-eighth to three-sixteenths of an inch thick; color, dark green. Flesh, dark yellow of very good quality, some soft fiber. Seed, 2½ ounces. Makes a good tree in San Gabriel Valley, wind-resisting, maturity season, mid-summer.

Kanola—One of the smaller Popenoe introductions. Shape of fruit, from oblate to round; weight, about 8 ounces; skin about one-eighth of an inch thick; dark purple, nearly black. Color of flesh, cream, good flavor, some soft fiber. Seed 1½ to 2 ounces. This fruit matures in winter.

With the Knight and Popenoe introductions, the best of the Guatemalan varieties have been secured for trial in Southern California. Many excellent qualities have appeared in this group and they furnish material of first importance to the plant breeder for the development of improved varieties of the future, which development is bound to come. It is a question of twenty-five years or more, but materials for this work are now already at hand in Southern California. The behavior of the one or two natural hybrids of the Guatemalan and Mexican races which we already have given some indication of what might be expected if this work is undertaken systematically.

Local Seedlings of Later Date

A few words in regard to local seedlings, some of which have been described before, while others are of recent introduction.

Ward—This variety, the origin of which has been described before, is becoming quite a favored one among some of the growers. The Ward has some very good qualities. The time between blooming and maturity of this fruit is very short (8 to 9 months). Ripening season is November to January, weight of fruit 10 to 16 ounces. The oil content is high, but the flavor of this fruit could be improved upon a great deal. The color of the flesh is grayish-yellow, the skin slightly less than one-sixteenth of an inch thick. The 1922 crop developed considerable cracked skin just before maturing, however, we have not noticed this defect since. It is too early at this date to form a definite conclusion as there are not enough budded trees of bearing age outside of the Sierra Madre district to determine the behavior in other localities and general planting recommendations cannot be made at this time.

Dutton—The Dutton has been examined and described for several seasons. Some of the budded trees are developing very well in the Yorba Linda district. This variety seems to be an early and heavy bearer on budded trees and is fairly hardy, at least more so than the Guatemalan variety, but slightly less than the Fuerte. The fruit has been picked in February, March and April, according to location. The skin is about one-sixteenth of an inch thick, is slightly pebbled and has a good purplish color for display purposes. The Dutton weighs about 1 pound and is somewhat pear shaped, with flesh light to grayish yellow, of good flavor. The seed, a little above the average in size, is tight in the cavity. Its behavior in other counties than Orange will be watched with interest. We are not prepared to state the maturity period in other districts. Analyses of University of California 13.3 per cent and 16.2 per cent oil—United States Department of Agriculture,

11.09 per cent oil.

Thompson—The Thompson is of later origin than the Ward or Dutton, and has been under observation for several seasons. The parent tree which is located at Montebello has fruited several times. This fruit has promising qualities in color for display purposes. As far as frost resistance is concerned, the Thompson is in the same class with the Dutton. Season of maturity in Montebello is perhaps February, March and April, in warmer localities the season of maturity might advance slightly. The color of the flesh is dull yellow, flavor good, oil content not yet determined, but apparently not very high. The fruit has the smallest seed of any avocado known to the Committee. The last sample tested in March of this year was 14 ounces in weight, with a seed less than one-fourth ounce. The shape of the fruit is long pyriform. No young budded trees are scattered through the avocado districts as yet, therefore nothing is known or can be said as to the bearing quality and behavior of budded trees.

Un-named Colorado Seedling—This variety originated in San Diego County, one fruit of which was sent to the Committee for the first time last February. The tree has not been inspected by any member of the Committee. The fruit sent for examination was a very fine specimen in many respects. Pear shaped, with short neck, weight, 16% ounces; a smooth, purplish black skin without any blemish. Deep yellow flesh becoming green near the rind, having a very good flavor. Seed, 2½ ounces, tight in cavity. It will be interesting to note the behavior of budded trees of this seedling, none of which are available at present.

Billingsly—The Billingsly has been described before as being a spring fruit of some merit, on account of its richness in flavor and acceptable size (12 to 16 ounces). The flesh, a dark cream color, and has a trace of fiber at times, more pronounced at the blossom end. The skin is not particularly attractive, being of a yellowish green color and rather thin, about one-thirty-second of an inch thick. The seed, somewhat large, runs from 1½ to 3 ounces. The shipping and keeping quality is not known to the Committee. The flesh has a very good flavor and seems rather high in oil content, however, official oil analysis has been made and averages about 20 per cent. Ripening season, April, May and June. Young budded trees are good growers and are bearing early and well.

Anaheim—The Anaheim was first brought to our attention in the Spring of 1920. Some very fine samples were at the spring meeting of that year. The fruit weighs 15 to 20 ounces and is pyriform in shape. The skin is of medium thickness and green in color. The flesh is a deep yellow, of very good quality. The seed from 2½ to 3½ ounces in weight, tight in the cavity. There are very few budded trees of this variety set out, but those examined by the Committee have a slender upright growth. More data is needed concerning the behavior of budded trees.

Dickey A.—This variety has been under investigation for several years. A few of the budded trees are now beginning to reach bearing stage. This fruit is pyriform in shape, its average weight is slightly below one pound. Color of fruit, reddish brown. Flesh, cream colored, at times slightly fibrous, of good flavor, not extra high in oil content. Seed, 1 to 1½ ounces. No crop record of any budded trees have been sent in to aid in determining the bearing habits.

Quaker—The Quaker, which first came to our attention in 1922, is obovate in shape,

average weight, 20 ounces; with a smooth green skin about one-sixteenth of an inch thick. The flesh is deep yellow, of good flavor and no fiber. The seed from 2½ to 3 ounces, tight in the cavity. Season of maturity, midsummer. Fruit set on budded trees at Hamburg place, Whittier, which were two or three years old, and crops of 25 fruits and more secured.

Arctic—This fruit was first on exhibition in November, 1923, as a seedling of the Sharpless variety at Tustin, Orange County; pear shaped, weight 18 ounces, purple skin one-sixteenth of an inch thick. Flesh dark yellow, of very good quality. A somewhat large seed, tight in the cavity. No data on propagating or regularity of cropping on hand. The time between blooming season and maturity seems rather long, perhaps fully 18 months.

Prince—The Prince, first introduced to the Committee in 1922, is long pyriform in shape, weight about 20 ounces. Greenish brown skin three-thirty-seconds of an inch thick. Flesh, light yellow, flavor very good. Seed 2½ ounces, tight in cavity. There are no records available at this time from budded trees. Season of maturity, December. Time between blooming and maturity very long, perhaps the same as the Arctic.

Dorothea—The Dorothea has been propagated very extensively of late, too extensively in view of the little now known of the behavior of young trees. The fruit, which averages about one-half pound has a smooth yellowish green skin, one-thirty-second of an inch thick, somewhat leathery. The flesh is of very good flavor, dark cream in color with a seed 1¼ ounces, tight in the cavity. The tree propagates very easily on most any stock, grows very rapidly and is, perhaps, in the same class as the Fuerte for hardiness. While the parent tree is a consistent bearer, there are no records available of budded trees. The season of maturity is November, December and January in the Hollywood district. The tree blooms in April and May, shortening the time of maturity to about 8 months, a very desirable point.

Princess—A seedling of the Prince, originating at Whittier. Broad pyriform in shape, color dark green, seed medium to small, flavor and quality very good. Of three year-old budded trees one produced 5 fruits and another 25 this season.

From the descriptions of the above varieties it very clear why it is impossible to select a so-called perfect avocado at this date. The variation in the habits of growth of the trees are just as wide as the characteristics of the fruit. It is difficult to get unusual all-around quality in the fruit and at the same time have a perfect tree.

Because of the fact that people buy with their eyes, the character, color and thickness of the skin is, next to the flesh, one of the most important considerations in judging a market fruit. Recommendation has been made by the Association in the past that the selection of a fruit for the table should be dependent upon the fruit yielding to slight pressure exerted by the fingers. On this basis it is rather difficult for the average purchaser to judge the variety of one of the type of Dickinson and one of the type of Puebla, side by side. Consequently, in judging the fruit it is necessary to establish a standard in relation to the thickness of skin by which comparison can be made.

At the present time the tendency is to plant winter maturing varieties because of the scarcity of other competing fruits at this season and high prices which have been

secured in consequence. Just how far steady planting of winter varieties can go before over-production might be brought about is not certain. Because of the keen competition of summer fruits and the general lack of understanding of various uses of the avocado in connection with the every day diet, much educational work must be done if consumption is to be maintained over the summer months.

Several of the varieties reported upon are showing somewhat different dates of maturity in different districts. As this information becomes available, it will be reported upon from year to year.

CALIFORNIA AVOCADO ASSOCIATION
SCORE CARD USED BY VARIETY COMMITTEE

VARIETY—Dorothea Date—Jan. 14, 1921

LOCATION—W. A. Miller's Place, Hollywood.

DESCRIPTION OF TREE

SIZE:	Parent tree about 16 feet high.
FORM:	Uniform spreading.
AGE AT INSPECTION DATE:	8 years.
REGULARITY OF CROP:	1918, 16 fruit; 1919, 30 fruit; 1920, 250 fruit; 75 fruit; 1922, 250 fruit.
DISEASE OF TREE:	None at this date.
DISEASE OF FRUIT:	None at this date.
LENGTH OF TIME FROM BLOOMING TO MATURITY:	About 8 months.
EASY OF PROPAGATION:	Very good.
CONDITION OF WOOD	Plyable.
RESISTANCE TO HEAT:	Good in Hollywood.
RESISTANCE TO COLD:	Appears to be fairly good.
RESISTANCE AGAINST WINDFALL	Not known.
SEASON OF BLOOMING:	April and May.
SEASON OF MATURITY:	November, December and January.

MEMORANDA

Tree in full bloom April 1, 1920.
Tree in full bloom May 1, 1922.
Tree blown over in rain storm, January, 1922.
Tree looks yellow and is light in foliage, August, 1922.

CALIFORNIA AVOCADO ASSOCIATION
SCORE CARD USED BY VARIETY COMMITTEE

VARIETY—Dorothea

DATE—January 14, 1921.

LOCATION—W. A. Miller's Place, Hollywood.

DESCRIPTION OF FRUIT	
FORM OF FRUIT:	Obovate.
WEIGHT OF FRUIT:	Six to 12 ounces.
SURFACE OF SKIN:	Smooth.
THICKNESS OF SKIN:	One-sixteenth of an inch (leathery).
COLOR OF SKIN:	Yellowish green.
BLEMISH OF SKIN:	None.
COLOR OF FLESH:	Dark cream.
FLAVOR:	Very good.
OIL CONTENTS:	No official analysis.
FIBER:	None.
SIZE OF SEED:	One and one-fourth to one and three-fourths ounces.
CONDITION OF CAVITY:	Tight.
KEEPING QUALITY:	Good.
SHIPPING QUALITY:	Not known.
MEMORANDA	
Fruit appears to be natural hybrid. Miller tree the parent. Perhaps hybridized by some Mexican variety, many of which are growing next to the Miller tree.	

FORMULA USED FOR JUDGING AND CLASSIFYING AVOCADOS BY THE COMMITTEE ON VARIETIES

For the benefit of the members of the Avocado Association, the Committee on Varieties will briefly describe the method used to form conclusions in judging avocados.

The two fundamentals necessary for investigation of all varieties of avocados are, first, description of the tree; second, description of the fruit. Under the description of the tree the following points are closely observed.

"A." Size and shape of tree. It is very important to know before planting an orchard whether the particular variety desired grows tall, dwarfed, slender or bushy.

"B." Next in order is resistance to heat and cold, which certainly has to be given considerable thought before planting. It means that a frost-free location is not always ideal for avocado planting. Geographical location has to be taken into consideration as well, at least to some extent with some varieties.

"C." Propagation is one phase of the industry which cannot be neglected by any means. Some very good varieties are rather difficult to propagate and, therefore, commercially discarded; however, it is hoped that additional investigation will disclose the fact that in most cases of poor propagation (poor union) it is the fault of non-congenial stock used for such propagation. Time will come when certain varieties will be propagated successfully only on certain stock. Some varieties are propagating very easily on most any stock and grow very robust, but their wood is so brittle that breakage of limbs occurs freely, especially when bearing a crop of fruit.

"D." The Committee is observing very closely any disease on both tree and fruit, old and new varieties.

"E." When inspecting a new variety for the first time we not only investigate the age of the tree, but we must know how old the tree was when the first blooms appeared, as well as when the first crop set and matured, and thereafter, every crop for the next four to six years, in order to determine the regularity of cropping. It is necessary to know the regularity of cropping on the budded trees for that length of time, more so than on the parent seedling tree. Accurate count of the fruit should be taken of each crop harvested during the period of investigation.

"F." A great deal of attention is paid to the time of the year the variety blooms. It is somewhat of a disadvantage for any variety to bloom during the late fall and early winter months, unless planted in a frost-free location. Advanced flower buds, open blooms or newly set fruit cannot withstand frost, otherwise not injurious to the tree itself. Therefore, early spring flowering varieties are somewhat preferable.

"G." The length of time between blooming season and maturity of fruit is a very important one. It seems reasonable to conclude that a variety requiring eight months from blooming time to maturity will be preferable to the one requiring from 16 to 18 months. Those are the extremes in varieties under observation at the present time. It will be of great benefit for certain localities to select varieties which bloom after the danger of frost has past and mature their crop before the frosty season begins again. This however, does not apply to locations where heavy frosts occur which injure the wood.

"H." The last few seasons have taught us to pay some attention to resistance against wind-fall. It was conclusively demonstrated, especially so last season, that there is a difference in varieties as to wind resistance.

Fruit

In judging the fruit, the following points are taken into consideration:

"A." Form of fruit. We consider a fruit round or nearly so as best adapted for packing.

"B." In regard to weight we have always considered a fruit ranging from 16 to 20 ounces as a desirable size for marketing. This, however, will adjust itself according to the demand. While a number of high class hotels and clubs are asking for large fruit at the present time, it is our opinion that in the near future, under a heavy production, a great demand will be created for smaller fruit, ranging between 8 and 16 ounces. While there will always be a certain demand for large fruit to supply fancy trade, the time will soon arrive when the cafeteria, the small restaurant, as well as all of the groceries and fruit stands, will handle avocados in the same manner as they are handling apples or other fruit. To them a smaller lower priced avocado will sell better than the larger expensive variety.

"C." The skin of the avocado is examined very thoroughly, first, for its smoothness and defects; second, color, which is quite important because a good looking fruit adds to the attractiveness on display, and in many cases sells even better than fruit of superior quality. Some attention is paid to the consistency of the skin as being leathery or brittle. A skin too thin is not a very good shipper, and a skin too brittle is objectionable when cutting fruit for the table.

"D." The flesh of the avocado is judged for color, flavor, oil content and fiber. A color of deep yellow fading to a green near the skin is most attractive and appetizing, at least more so than the grayish white or grayish yellow type. The flavor of the flesh can be good without being very high in oil content; however, in most cases the high oil content improves the flavor. The fiber in the flesh varies a great deal in color and consistency. It does not make very much difference as to the color of the fiber, however, the stringy type is very objectionable. A fruit entirely free of fiber is most desirable.

"E." In regard to the seed it is desirable to have one as small as possible and tight in the cavity.

"F." Any fruit that has good keeping qualities is preferable to the one that has none. This applies to shipping quality as well.

To sum up the whole matter there are a great many points to be taken into consideration and closely observed for a number of years in order to form any conclusion at all satisfactorily for future planting.

The function of the Variety Committee is to observe and report upon facts and prospective planters will draw their own conclusions and make their own decisions.

WM. H. HERTRICH, *Chairman.*

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