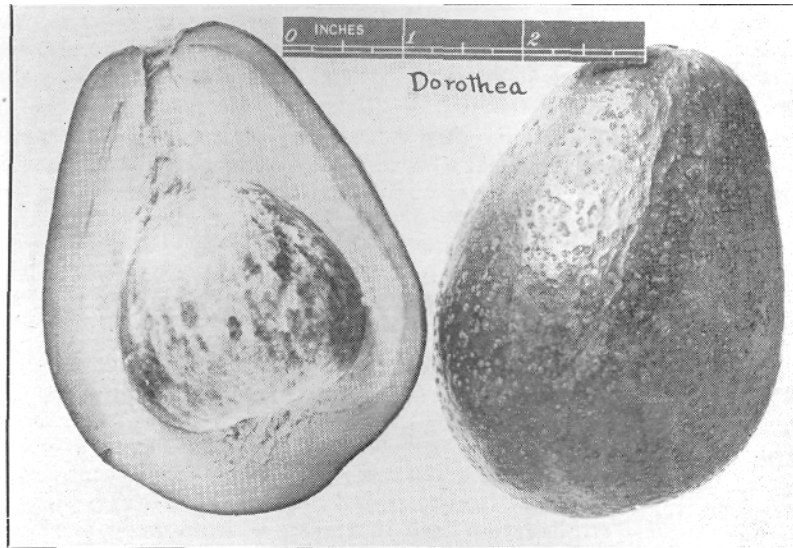


REPORT OF THE VARIETY COMMITTEE



It has been the custom each year in the past for the Variety Committee to name a list of varieties which were considered suitable for commercial planting. This has been known as the "Recommended List." The first such list appeared in 1917 and contained eight varieties. At different times since, certain varieties have been removed from the list as imperfections developed and became fully recognized. This caused some keen disappointment among sponsors for the demoted varieties. While subjected to severe criticism at times, the Committee has been firm in its decisions and its work has been approved repeatedly by the membership of the Association as a whole.

At this time the Committee wishes to establish an entirely new plan. For the old recommended list there is substituted four separate lists, each of a different comparative value. Whenever any particular variety assumes peculiar interest, importance, or apparent value, it will be given a temporary place on one of these lists. Each year the lists are to be overhauled by the Committee and as the knowledge of any variety increases, it may be moved upward in the scale, or downward, or dropped altogether or temporarily. It is expected that hereafter the decision of the Committee will be guided by at least three factors: an annual plebiscite of the growers who know most about growth and fruiting habits; the reactions of the markets as interpreted through the office of the manager of the Exchange; and the experience of the Committee as to actual quality.

It is planned to limit the total number of varieties contained in the four lists to about fifty. It must be distinctly understood that the failure of any particular variety to appear on these lists does not mean that it is considered worthless. It may have been left out because it has been tried and condemned. Or it may be that not enough knowledge of

the variety has accumulated to warrant a decision as to where it belongs. Thus, a number of the new varieties introduced by the Government may find places in these lists from year to year.

Producers of worthy new seedlings should take pains to submit samples of the fruit to the Committee. The appearance of a new seedling in List No. 4 should call attention to it and result in sufficient propagation and distribution into different districts to bring about a fair test of its actual value.

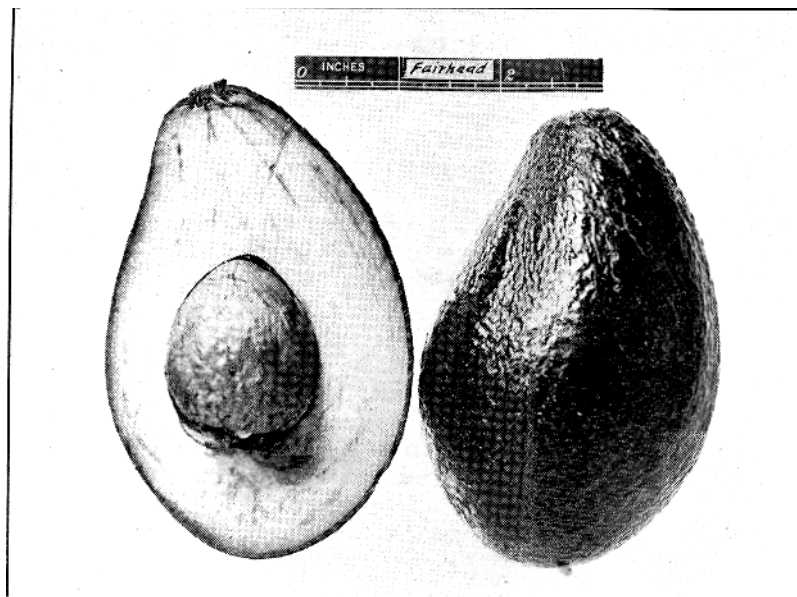
LIST No. 1—*Commercial Varieties*—Fuerte.

LIST No. 2—*Varieties of Proven Merit, candidates for commercial rating*: Dickinson, Dutton, Puebla, Taft.

LIST No. 3—*Varieties of Value Suggested for Experimental Plantings and Domestic Collections*: Anaheim, Benik, Cabnal, Caliente, Challenge, Colorado, Dickey, Dickey A, Dorothea, Linda, Lyon, Mayaoan, Northrop, Panchoy, Prince, Queen, Sharpless, Spinks, Tiger, Tumin, Ward, Worsham.

LIST No. 4—*New varieties of Marked Promise*: Arctic, Carlsbad, Fair-head, Garcia, Kanola, Manz, Newberry, Laurel, Oakley Varieties, Osborne, Princess, Ace, Thompson.

NOTES ON VARIETIES



Fuerte

The Fuerte is growing rapidly in popularity as a market fruit. It is green, ships well, is liked by Eastern consumers, and has a very long season. Last year the Exchange received deliveries of Fuerte every month in the year except October, which is the month of heaviest West Indian competition. It consistently commands a premium in the

market over all other varieties. It is hardy to frost and is a vigorous grower. About the only objection to it is shy bearing while the tree is young, and lack of uniformity of bearing in older trees.

Dickinson

The Dickinson is a fine fruit and is still widely planted. It was demoted from the Commercial list because of its color and excessively thick skin which enables unscrupulous retailers to keep it on sale until it is overripe or rotten.

Dutton

The Dutton has enjoyed quite a vogue on account of fine quality and heavy bearing of young budded trees. It is not on the Commercial list because of its short season, and lack of knowledge as to its shipping qualities.

Puebla

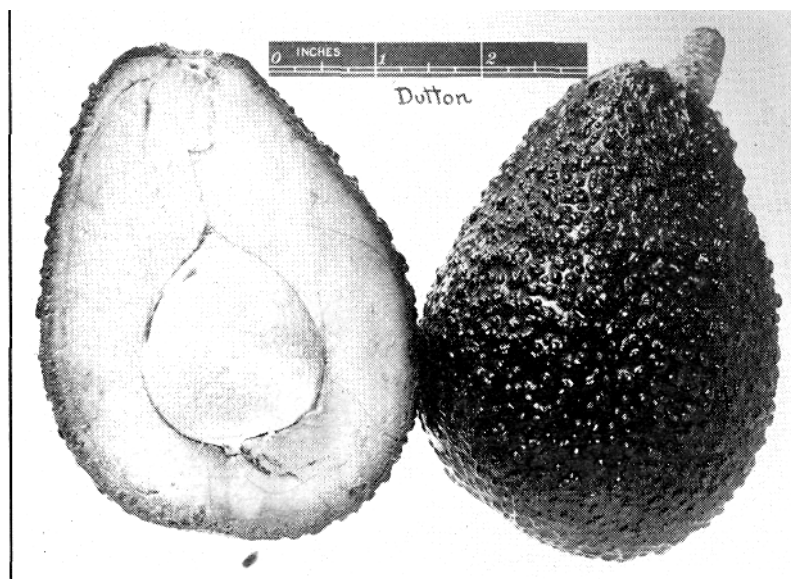
The Puebla is very hardy, grows well and bears well. It is demoted from the Commercial list because of its small size, large seed, and lack of good shipping qualities. For California markets it is still very popular.

Taft

This is an old variety which is very satisfactory as a high quality summer and fall market fruit. The great difficulty with it is the extreme lateness of coming into bearing and irregular bearing. In the interior foothills, it is subject to blast, and on shallow soils drops in warm weather.

Challenge

The Challenge is a heavy bearer and splendid shipper, giving good satisfaction in Eastern markets. Its indifferent flavor and very large seed are against it, and the Committee feels that within a few years when there are plenty of Fuertes, Challenge will be heavily discounted.



Dorothea

Unquestionably, Dorothea is a fine fruit for home consumption. On account of shy bearing and very poor appearance when ready for the table, it is decreasing in popularity.

Lyon

The Lyon is a good market fruit, if one can grow it. While many thousands of trees have been planted during the past fourteen years, very few trees have come into satisfactory production.

Mayapan

Continues very promising as a good grower and heavy bearer, resistant to wind, does well in the hot interior districts. This year it dropped abnormally early in North Whittier Heights section.

Panchoy

This is a medium to shy bearer. Quality of fruit variable; good in some seasons and in some places; bad flavor in others.

Queen

The Queen is one of the finest quality summer fruits we have, but its rough exterior, and very large size make it hard to market in quantity. It should be in every home collection where there is little frost.

Sharpless

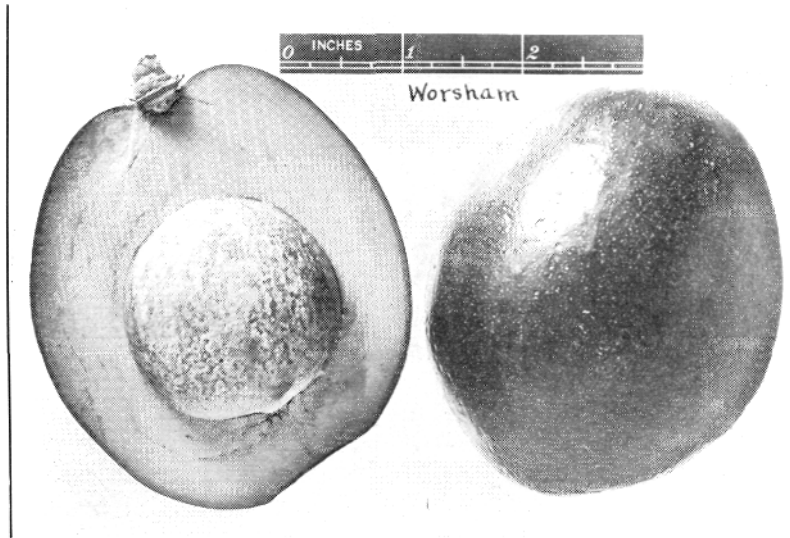
Continues to move downward in the scale of public estimation. The tree is an uneven and late bearer, size often too large for market, and a very poor shipper.

Ward

Showed a good deal of skin cracking again this year. However, only a part of the crop is affected. It is a very early and heavy bearer, and the fruit varies in quality, being good in some specimens and poor flavor in others. It should be experimented with near the Coast.

Worsham

This is an old variety which has come into the limelight this year. The original tree stands on the old Worsham place at the head of Earlham Drive, Whittier. It is a large old seedling and has borne tremendous crops regularly for many years. The tree buds easily, makes a good nursery tree, and comes into heavy bearing very early, it may be a hybrid like the Fuerte. The appearance of the leaf is pure Guatemalan, yet it has a strong odor of anise. The fruit is green, leather skin, 12 to 14 ounces, almost round or obovate. The seed is large but tight in cavity with seed coats adhering to seed. Flesh almost white, no fiber, rich in oil, fine flavor. The season is December to February. While not as good as Fuerte as a market fruit, its self-pollination and sure and heavy bearing make it valuable for home planting in places where there is room for only one tree.



Carlsbad

The Carlsbad is a very fine fruit to eat and beautiful to look at. It continues bearing well, is easy to propagate. It is popular along the South Coast. Nothing is yet known of its shipping qualities.

Fairhead

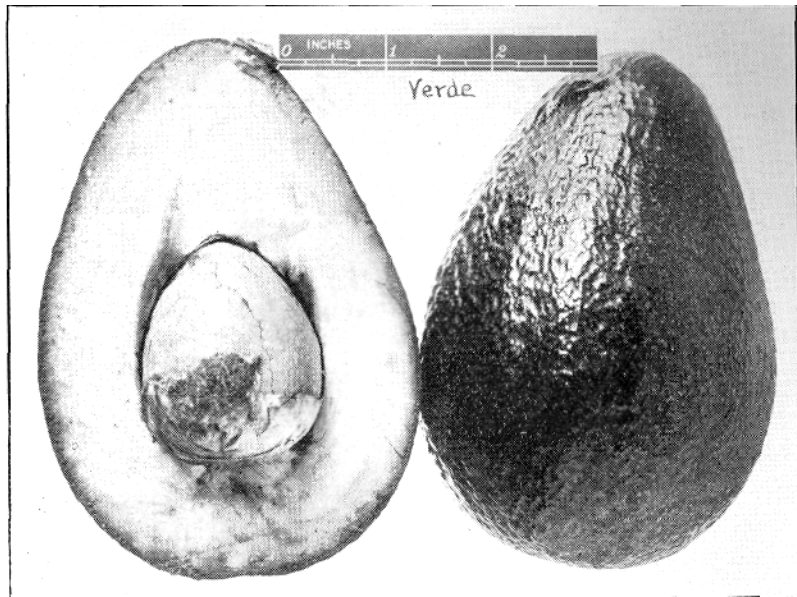
Has been fully described previously. The original tree bore a good crop this year. It is a very fine fruit which, originating inland, is likely to be less subject to scab than some others. It deserves wide trial and may be to interior districts what Carlsbad is to the Coast.

Newberry

This fine fruit was originated by Mr. J. R. Newberry at Carlsbad. It is a pure Guatemalan, weighing a pound or more, green, pear shaped, medium seed, season February to April, and perhaps later. The flavor is excellent, but there are indications of fiber. The tree buds easily, is precocious, a good bearer and deserves a wide trial.

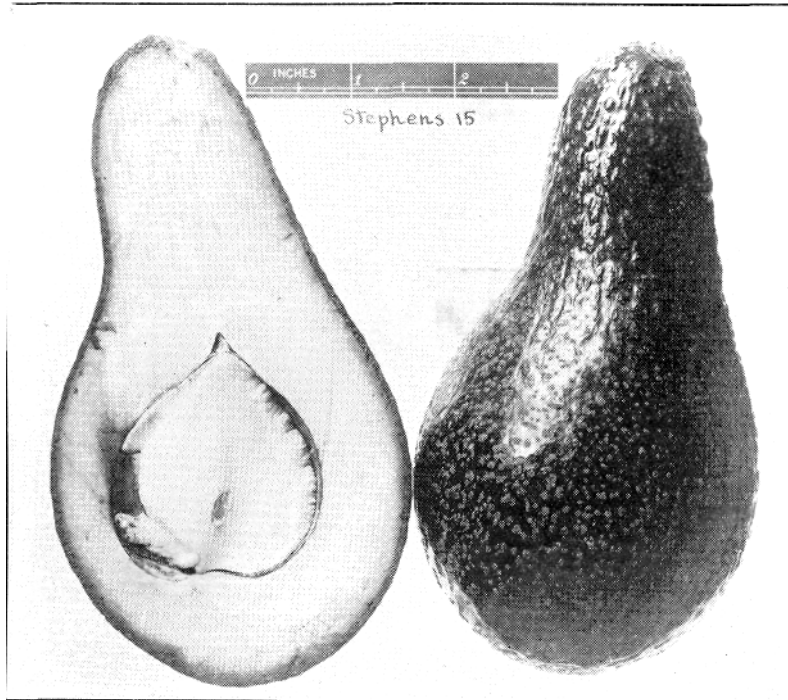
Ace

This is another very fine new entry of this year, originating at Anaheim by G. M. Simpson of 130 W. Center St. It is a fine Guatemalan, weighing one pound and pear shaped. Seed, 3 ounces, tight. Skin very tough. Color, green. Season, April to July. Fourth year, 1 fruit; fifth year, 28; sixth year, 130. Flavor very good. Nothing known as to propagation and shipping qualities. It also deserves a wide trial. Fat content, 10.94%.



Thompson

The old Thompson tree at Montebello bore 13 fruits this year. They are very beautiful dark purple, weighing up to 25 ounces with a tight seed which weights 1 ounce, often less. It has very much the largest proportion of flesh to seed of any avocado known. The flavor is excellent, free from fiber; fruit keeps well after being cut. It may have been considered a shy bearer, but it is tender and grows in such a frosty place that it has never really had a fair chance. The tree appears to be setting a large crop this year. The Thompson is certainly deserving of a place in every collection or experimental planting. A number of trees have been distributed, and their progress will be watched with interest. U. S. Department of Agriculture analysis, May 10, 1926: Weight, 25.0 ounces; seed, 7.5%; skin, 7.3%; pulp, 85%; moisture, 69.75% of pulp; protein, 2.19% of pulp; fat, 22.17% of pulp.



AWARD OF PRIZES FOR BEST SEEDLINGS

Last year at the Pasadena meeting prizes were offered for the best new seedlings exhibited at the meeting. There were eight entries in this competition, not counting several which were disqualified.

The Committee awarded the first prize of \$100 donated by Mr. R. A. Dallugge of Santa Monica to Mr. Geo. E. Fairhead of 4137 Hartwick Ave., Eagle Rock. Name of fruit, *Fairhead*.

The second prize of \$50, donated by Dr. C. P. Lux of Monrovia, was awarded to Mr. Chas. F. Wagner, 1295 Fairfax Ave., Hollywood. Name of fruit, *Laurel*.

Descriptions of these new seedlings may be found on pages 58 and 61 of the 1925 annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Variety Committee,

WM. HERTRICH, T. G. SUTHERLAND, ROY COLE, A. F. YAGGY, J. ELIOT Coit, *Chairman.*