

California Avocado Society 1928 Yearbook 13: 84-87

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VARIETIES

Mr. President: Ladies and Gentlemen:

This year the Variety Committee came to the conclusion that it would be well to pay particular attention to the variations in behaviour of certain varieties under different climatic conditions. In order to make this as inclusive as possible, a circular letter requesting data of this kind was sent to members with the idea of augmenting as much as possible the information accumulated by members of the Committee.

We take this occasion to thank those who replied, some of whom sent valuable data most painstakingly worked out. All of the replies have been studied and they will be preserved in an appropriate place in the files at the Association Office. In this connection we wish to express our appreciation of the work of Mrs. Adeltha Peterson of the Association Office who has laboriously segregated the office files and grouped all data on any variety in one place where it may be studied with convenience. As time goes on this file will become invaluable.

The committee wishes to make the suggestion to those who produce avocado seedlings, that such seedlings be not named but carried under number and owner's name until their worthiness has been fairly demonstrated. Our lists are being cluttered up with too many names which mean little or nothing.

The plan of presenting several lists of recommended varieties as was done last year resulted in much favorable comment. The lists are repeated this year with some changes.

LIST NO. 1—*Commercial Varieties*: Fuerte.

LIST NO. 2—*Varieties of Proved Merit Candidates for Commercial Rating*:

Nabal	Puebla	Queen	Taft.
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LIST NO. 3—*Varieties of Value Suggested for Amateur Collections and Experimental Plantings*:

*Anaheim	*Duke	*Mayapan	Stephens Choice
*Benik	Button	*Nabal	Taft
Cantel	Fairhead	Northrop	*Thompson
*Carlsbad	*Fuerte	Panchoy	Tiger
Colorado	Kashlan	*Puebla	Topa Topa
*Dickinson	Linda	*Queen	*Worsham

Dorothea	Lyon	Sharpless	
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LIST NO. 4—*Varieties most hardy to Cold Suggested for Amateur Growers:*

*Blake	Duke	*Topa Topa	*Fuerte	*Puebla	Northrop
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*Indicates first choice.

Notes on Varieties

Anaheim:— This is one of the few varieties which set a heavy crop this year. It seems particularly well suited to Coast districts from Oceanside to Chula Vista. Little yet known as to marketability though some idea of that may be gained from this year's (1928) crop. Rather large for the general market.

Carlsbad—Reports from Coast districts very favorable as to yield and quality. No reports yet from interior districts.

Colorado—*Dickey*—*Lyon*—These three old varieties are very worthy fruits, but they are so difficult to propagate in the nursery that they are not considered commercial. Where they are top-grafted in place on previously large vigorous trees, they often perform very well and the quality of the fruit is excellent. Dickey is well suited to districts on the Coast while Colorado and Lyon do better in intermediate districts. Recommended for amateur collections.

Dickey A—Much new data on Dickey A shows it to be a fair to good bearer in Coast districts such as Carlsbad. Does particularly well in Camarillo district, Ventura County, where the season is given as May to July. Does moderately well at Whittier and intermediate districts in interior foothills. Apparently of no value and being top-worked on account of failure to set fruit. Some complaints from market men on account of cutting black around the seed.

Dickinson—One of the best and most regular bearers in both intermediate and Coast districts. Hangs to October in Ventura.

Dorothea—Amateurs in Hollywood and Beverly Hills enthusiastic. Does well at Tustin and Vista, poorly at Pasadena, North Whittier Heights and interior foothills. Bears well at Carlsbad. Is reported to be as hardy to cold as Fuerte or even more so.

Duke—Nothing additional to last year's report except that a test in October gave 21% of fat. Trees distributed last spring have made very good growth. Well suited to the hot interior.

Dutton—A heavy bearer in Coast districts. Color and short season against it for commercial purposes.

Fuerte—About the only criticism of Fuerte is its irregular bearing in some localities. It bears best when somewhat elevated on foothill slopes in a belt from ten to twenty miles from the sea. Fuerte enthusiasm comes from La Mesa, Mt. Helix, El Cajon, Escondido, Vista, Fallbrook, Lemon Heights, Tustin, La Habra Heights, North Whittier Heights, Glendale, Fillmore and Ojai. Growers nearer the Coast appreciate Fuerte, but there is

more complaint in regard to irregular bearing and susceptibility to "tip-burn". On the Coast it sometimes blooms too early to set as well as farther inland. On the other hand it frequently off-blooms in November and sets a small second crop which matures in September and October. The quality of the fruit is extra good and it matures and hangs late. The lateness is especially true in the Camarillo-Oxnard district where it is reported to mature in April and hang till September. At Santa Barbara and Goleta it is shy bearing on low, flat, deep soils, but heavy bearing on elevated foothills. Along the foothills, from Pasadena to Upland, the Fuerte bears fairly well but is more susceptible to Anthracnose and wind-scarring. At Riverside it bears fairly well and is of excellent quality. On adobe foothills in Eastern Tulare County it grows with great vigor into a very tall tree but is quite shy in bearing. After analyzing much data the conclusion is reached that on deep rich fertile soil the Fuerte is carried away with vigorous growth and does not bear so well while young as it does on shallower soils where root action is restricted. Root pruning of extra vigorous trees should be experimented with. Another idea is gaining ground to the effect that light frosts which may not seriously injure the Fuerte tree may weaken the bloom. It may be worth while to use orchard heaters in frosty groves. While the Fuerte tree is decidedly hardy to cold, it seems true that the heaviest yields come where there is the least frost.

Itzamna—One of the most vigorous growing trees in our entire list. Apparently best suited to immediate Coast. Very heavy bearer at Carlsbad and Santa Monica. Long, pear-shaped, green, thick-skinned Guatemalan with small seed. Season—August-November at Carlsbad where Mr. Sam Thompson is very enthusiastic about it. (See illustration in 1927 Yearbook, Page 62.)

Lyon—(Note comments under "Colorado".)

Mayapan—Heavy and regular bearer in both coast and inland. Commercial value questionable on account of very thick shell which permits overripening on retail stands before being sold. This objection applies particularly to fruits not fully mature.

Miller—This is one of our oldest varieties having been first planted in 1886 in Hollywood. No longer propagated in nurseries, and not much talked about lately. This year there are several favorable reports from Coast districts as to regular heavy yields and fair quality in spite of large seed. Good reports from Sawtelle, Camarillo, Santa Barbara, and Goleta. At Camarillo it hangs well till November. Guatemalan, 8 to 12 Oz., rough, green, seed large, 25% fat, flavor good. Unfavorable report from Glendale.

Nabal—Following the very heavy crop of 1927, Nabal trees set a light crop or nothing for harvest in 1928. No new data has been received except an opinion from one grower that the tree is rather hardy to frost, falling between Taft and Fuerte in this respect. Considerable nursery stock was propagated in 1927 and we hope to have a wider distribution and more thorough test. The variety has good bud-wood and propagates easily in nursery. On account of light crop little new information on shipping quality.

Puebla—This variety reacts to environment very much like Fuerte. The best bearing and best quality fruit comes from foot-hill slopes in the intermediate belt. The bloom is injuriously affected by extremes; by the ocean wind immediately on the Coast and by hot days in the interior. In the Camarillo district the fruit is very late, maturing from February to May when there is little market for it. The Puebla is not improving in

marketability, but enjoys an increasing popularity among amateurs on account of its remarkably rich flavor.

Queen—Queen does best in the intermediate belt and nearer the Coast. It is less affected by ocean breeze than by interior heat. It is very tender to frost. Its size is too large for the general market, but the quality is so fine that it deserves a place in special markets. In Pasadena it hangs well until November. Ripens along South Coast from March to June.

Sharpless—A large late fruit of good quality, bears well at Tustin, Capistrano, La Habra and in Orange County generally.

Spinks—Last year the committee made a very strong statement against Spinks. This year experience has given additional proof that we were right. We wish to again condemn the Spinks and urge growers to continue top-working it to other and better varieties. Experience this year has shown that Spinks top-works easiest by grafting in late winter. *Taft*—Following the very heavy crop of last year, Tafts set very light to nothing this year. Many trees failed to bloom. From a market standpoint the Taft is very good but growers complain of irregular and poor bearing. Does best near the Coast.

Tiger—This variety is growing in popularity. It is cosmopolitan, doing well in both hot interior and coast districts. Very favorable report from Fillmore. Season March-April at Carlsbad. Fruit 16 02., Seed 4 02., Skin medium thin, flesh whitish green, not much fibre, seed cavity clean, color black when ready to eat

Topa Topa—Growing in popularity as one of the best early Mexicans for market. Bears well in most places. Vigorous grower and hardy to frost. On account of its shiny black color is very popular on local markets; loose seed apparently of little objection.

Winslowson—As grown at Carlsbad it has no value on account of poor bearing, extra large seed, and poor and watery flavor.

Chota Valley Varieties—There is little information yet on these interesting varieties introduced by Mr. Wilson Popenoe through the U. S. Department of Agriculture, except that they are not as hardy to cold as had been expected, and their bearing habits here are disappointing.

New Seedlings of Interest.

Seedling—(G. Y. Baker, Carlsbad) Seedling of Lyon. Vigorous upright grower. At four years from seed bears 200 fruit crop in great clusters. Fruit green. 10 oz. Seed medium 3 oz. Not mature on March 27 but very promising and interesting. Oil test may 18th 14.90 per cent. *Seedling*—(G. E. Fairhead, Eagle Rock) The committee has not had an opportunity to study this fruit, but Mr. Fairhead reports it as green, pear-shaped, leather-skin, 10 to 16 oz., seed medium in size and tight in cavity, little fibre, flavor good, keeping quality good, vigorous tree and fair cropper for two years, season June 1 to December 1. Test May 18, showed 15.41% oil. This has great promise on account of its season and similarity to Fuerte.

Seedling—(E. G. Litchfield, Carlsbad) This is said to be a seedling of Fuerte which it resembles in tree character. Large and vigorous grower; 150 fruits at 4 years; 200 fruits at 5 years. Season December 1 to April 1 at Carlsbad. Oval, tapering both ends. 11oz.

fruit with 5 oz. seed. Seed too large. Skin thin, smooth, wine-colored especially at apex, tendency to crack when over-mature. Flavor only fair. Flardly commercial. At best a very heavy bearing home-yard variety.

Seedling—(Named "Mary Garden") (Sam Thompson, Carlsbad). Seedling of Lyon. Vigorous upright growing tree. The committee has not studied the fruit but it is reported as being medium-sized, wine-colored, pear-shaped, heavy bearer of fine flavor. Mr. Thompson says it is the very best of all his many seedlings which is saying a good deal for it.

Respectfully submitted,

Variety Committee

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