

## Maturity- Wind-storm: Immature Fruit

November 22, 1930

**Dr. Coit:** After the wind-storm which we had throughout the foothill district last night, I would not be surprised by Monday to see the market absolutely flooded with immature Fuertes picked up from the ground. The wind blew down some Fuertes that were all right but the bulk of them will not test over five to six per cent and the average man would not know how to separate them. At the Calavo Growers this fruit will all be picked over carefully by trained men but this will not be true of the flood of independent fruit that will find its way onto the market.

**Question:** Can you give us some pointers on appearance of mature fruit?

**Dr. Coit:** Without the laboratory test, one cannot say finally. However, when the fruit is grass-green and the little yellow dots stand out very prominently in contrast to this grassy-green, the fruit is grossly immature. The first appearance of coming maturity is generally the forming of the bloom—a waxy coat over the surface of the fruit, a filling out, and some tendency around the distal end to form little rusty specks. Also the joint of the stem which is a part of the fruit about one-quarter to one-half an inch larger than the rest of the stem takes on a yellow color. Sometimes the stem is just a little bit loose. Those are a few suggestions, though the only sure test is the laboratory test for oil.

**Mr. Wallace:** Go like I did to the packing-house and the men there will be glad to show you what they are going to have to dump and what is mature. The other day I was in the packing-house when a bunch of Fuertes came in, some all right and some green. I said to the man in charge, "How can we stop this?" He answered, "I told the lady not to pick yet, but today her Mexican brings the fruit in here. It will just have to be graded out." I tell you, friends, it is a problem knowing how to handle so many growers but each year these troubles will tend to smooth out.

## Marketing: Immature Fruit

**Question:** Has any effort been made to stop the marketing of immature green-skinned avocados? This unfair procedure has seriously damaged the prestige of our favorite, the Fuerte.

**Dr. Coit:** Yes, it certainly has. This Association and the Calavo Growers fathered and pushed through the Standardization Law. Representatives of this Association and the Calavo Growers are continually stirring up the agricultural commissioners and state inspectors to a more rigid enforcement of this law. The law is being enforced. However, this year such a tremendous volume of immature stuff went so close to the line, that it was very difficult to completely police the situation. A serious effort has been made and as the season progresses, the enforcement will be one hundred per cent effective. The inspectors have been practically overwhelmed with the flood of this immature fruit. As a

result the dealers became suspicious of anything green and said, "Let's lay off of all green fruit until after Christmas." I may say in behalf of Calavo Growers that they are making every effort at the present time to give out information in regard to picking to anyone—members or independent.