

Avocado Culture in Egypt

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It is stated in the records of the Horticultural Society of Alexandria that the avocado was introduced into Egypt between 1870 and 1880. Apparently it was introduced then as a botanical specimen. Old trees are very scarce in the country and nobody appreciated their existence.

It was only in late years, after the Americans have published a great deal about the value of the avocado as a fruit, that the Horticultural Section of the Ministry of Agriculture made fresh introductions of avocado commercial varieties including Duke, Fuerte, Pollock and others.

These varieties started to bear in 1935. Earlier introductions of seedling avocados were made about 1918 and individual trees some 16 years old are growing well and giving good crops around Cairo.

Egyptian climatic conditions seem to suit the avocado trees quite favorably. They grow exceedingly well in the Northern Coast around Alexandria where the mean relative humidity for the whole year is 70%, the temperature 50 to 90 F. and the soil sandy loam rich in lime.

HAVE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS

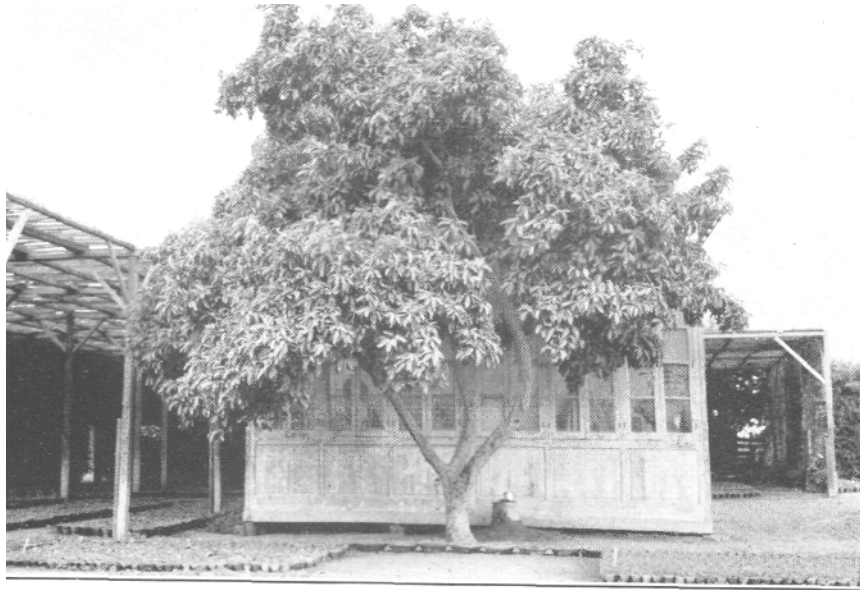
In the center of the country i. e. at the head of the Nile Delta where the humidity varies from 55% to 70% and the temperature from 40 to 100 P. and the soil is a rich light loam, the vegetative growth is quite luxuriant and a 5-year-old budded tree bears about 250 fruits.

Even the hottest districts of the South where the temperature reaches a maximum of 113 F. the avocado grows and fruits satisfactorily.

Leaf scorch is a serious trouble to some individual trees especially when they are young.

Shield budding of standard varieties on seedling stocks in August and September is quite successful as a general method of propagation.

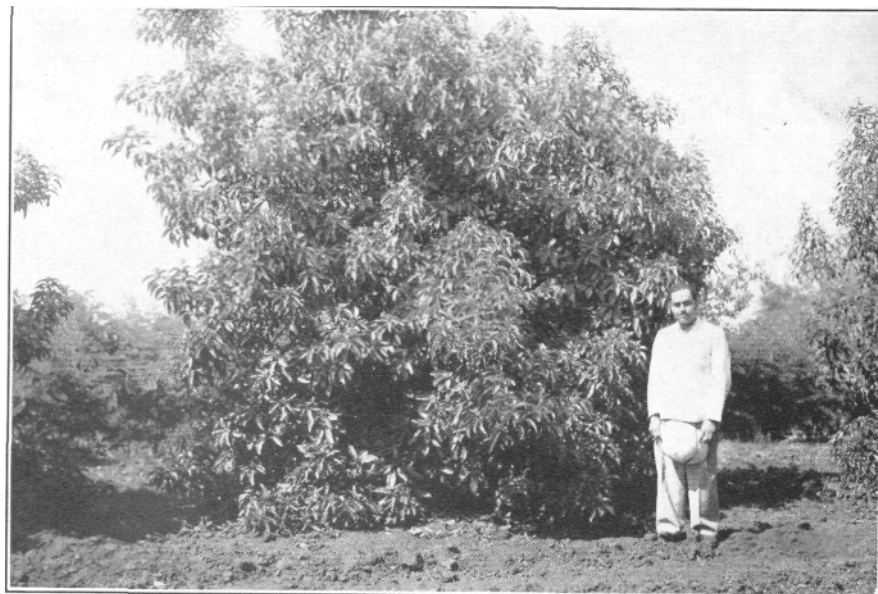
At present, the Egyptians do not like avocado as a salad fruit. It is not sure whether this fruit will ever be popular. However, standard varieties are being propagated and distributed among growers only in small numbers for trial. Outside the Horticultural Experimental Stations one can hardly find an avocado plantation of even one-fourth of an acre.



Seedling avocado 16 years old at Giza, Egypt.



Fruits of the Fuerte at Giza.



Fuerte avocado, five years old, at Giza, Egypt.