

California Avocado Association 1936 Yearbook 21: 119-120

Australia

70th Report of *the Queensland Acclimatisation Society at Brisbane, covering period April, 1935, to March, 1936.*

THE AVOCADO ORCHARD

The trees in the Avocado orchard received every attention during the year. It has been found that the Avocado likes a deep friable soil and unfortunately the original trees introduced by the Society were planted in rather • shallow soil which contains a considerable quantity of gravel. All new plantings are being made in deeper and more loamy soil. The improvement in both the growth and health of the trees is most marked.

Maize was broadcast in the old orchard and subsequently ploughed in to add humus to the soil. The soil around the trees was given a good dressing with commercial fertilizer and kept well cultivated.

Several varieties have produced good crops of fruit. Spinks and Linda continue to set and mature good quality fruit, and the trees are hardy and vigorous. Grande produces magnificent fruit but unfortunately it is a very shy bearer. Queen is another reliable variety producing each year good crops of excellent fruit.

The following varieties raised by the Society, Robinson and Campbell, produced fruit which is of good type and quality.

The experiments carried out by the Society in connection with growing Avocados in Queensland indicate that there is much to learn in this respect. Soil, climatic conditions and general cultivation greatly affect the growth and fruiting of the trees, as well as the quality of the fruit.

Only a small quantity of fruit was marketed during the year, as it was necessary to retain as much as possible for seed purposes in raising stocks to meet the demand for worked trees.

Seed of a number of new types was received from the United States of America and has been sown for experimental purposes.

Considerable interest is being taken in the growing of Avocados in Queensland and the other States and the Society is continuously supplying information on the subject.

There is a good demand for grafted trees, and all raised by the Society last year have been disposed of.

The Society's faith in the Avocado as a profitable crop for the Queensland Orchardist is strengthened year by year by the steady and persistent demand for the fruit in the Southern markets.