

Avocados in Los Angeles County

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Avocado trees have been planted and are producing avocados in all districts of Los Angeles County south of the mountains. Commercial orchards are to be found in several districts of the county where the climatic conditions are satisfactory. Avocados will grow and produce where lemons flourish.

Commercial districts are as follows: Whittier district and the hills to the north and east, including the La Habra Heights and North Whittier Heights districts; the foothill area extending from Pasadena to Glendora; the floor of the San Gabriel Valley, especially between San Dimas and Baldwin Park; the south slope of the Santa Monica mountains; the north slope of the Palos Verdes Hills; and that portion southwest of Whittier in the vicinity of Rivera.

While many varieties have been planted, including seedlings, yet the larger acreage consists of Fuertes, not only those of commercial orchards but backyard plantings as well. Some new and untried varieties suggested and sold by propagators are being tested out by those who are planting only a few trees. Avocado trees are not in great demand at this time, neither does the nurseryman have large supplies for planting.

According to records of the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner, there are 2,267 acres of bearing and 166 acres of non-bearing avocados in the county. The records also indicate that twenty acres of avocados were planted in 1936.

WEATHER FAVORABLE

Weather conditions during the early part of the year were quite favorable for bloom and set of fruit, and since the season of 1936-1937 is the "on year," conditions appear to be all set for a good crop. However, some loss of crop has occurred because of prolonged dry weather this past fall, with some fairly high temperatures. In general the fall weather conditions were favorable for growth, and the fruit has sized and matured quite satisfactorily.

Fuertes are being sold at this time (January, 1937) in large volume, with quite a number of cars of avocados having been sent to eastern markets.

Observations are constantly being made on cultural practices in the orchards of the county, and an effort is being made to improve practices, looking to greater efficiency in production. Insect infestation and disease infection do not yet appear to require control measures in Los Angeles County. Brown mite and Iatania scale are generally present in orchards in most districts, but little attempt has been made to control them. Iatania scale, especially, has cycles of heavy and light infestation with no apparent need for commercial control.

The outlook is for increasing production since most of the acreage has been planted in

the last twelve years and a large percentage planted within the last seven years. The planting of new orchards is not generally recommended in Los Angeles County.