

Avocados in the Mediterranean

"Villa Montmorency"
28 Avenue des Sycamores
Paris, France
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Sir:

Mr. Arthur Smith of Tampa, Florida, with whom I am in correspondence, asked me to send you a note on the culture of Perseas on The Cote d'Azur (Mediterranean Coast).

We have in reality had Perseas (avocado trees) on the French Riviera for a long time.

For more than 30 years a Persea of the variety "Drymefolia" has borne fruit, sometimes even in great abundance, at "Golfe Juan" near Cannes. (Alpes Maritimes.)

Since that time fruiting avocados are to be found everywhere on the Riviera. I shall here cite only the "Villa Mauresque," at Cap Ferrat, where 10 Perseas of the variety of Fuerte and Puebla give fruit every year. There, it is in particular the Fuerte that bears the most, whereas at my place, "Villa Africa" at Menton-Garavan, it is the Puebla.

At the "Villa Africa," numerous seedlings of Perseas of Mexican and Guatemalan varieties grow vigorously, and some have already borne fruit. I even have an Antillian variety. However I must admit, that while numerous avocados bear fruit, both on the French and Italian Riviera, the latter is not very abundant and often drops when very young.

Professor Mario Calvino of "San Remo," Italy, wrote me a few days ago, saying he had obtained good results by frequently spraying the trees with water (both flowers and foliage).

Without a doubt the too dry climate of the Northern Coast of the Mediterranean is hardly favorable to abundant fruiting of the avocado whose fruit is considered rather too flat in favor by many Europeans.

(Signed) R. JARRY DESLOGES