

## Report of Subtropical Fruit Committee of the California Avocado Society

Dean F. Palmer,  
*Chairman*

Activities of your committee on subtropical fruits have been greatly retarded due to the stress and strain of war. Transportation difficulties have made it impossible for members of this committee to make many contacts either to encourage the registration of worthy fruits, or to examine those trees which have been offered for registration. However, as time goes on, the need for a committee on sub-tropical fruits as well as its functions becomes more apparent. There seems to be a need for activity and guidance along three particular lines. First, our committee should use its influence in the • selection and use of names for subtropical fruits which are not misleading and ones which will be pleasing and tend to encourage their commercial use. Samples of these are: **1st:** Carissa, commonly called the "Natal Plum". Dr. Coit has pointed out that this fruit is not even closely related to the plum and its name is, therefore, misleading. Since there are but two species of carissa grown to any extent, namely, Carissa Grandiflora and Carissa Arduina, it is felt by the committee that the generic name Carissa should be adopted by our society as the common name for this fruit. The same situation exists with reference to the Macadamia which has been called the Queensland Nut and the Australian Nut. The tree of the Macadamia was botanically named Macadamia ternifolia in honor of Dr. John Macadam, president of the Philosophical Society, Victoria, Australia. It is the recommendation of this committee that the generic name Macadamia be adopted as the official name for this fruit and that the use of other names be discouraged. One example of a fruit the use of which has been retarded by its name is Passiflora, commonly called passion fruit. The word "passion" as applied to this fruit has a religious significance and was used by the early Spanish missionaries to South America in describing the beautiful purple and white flower which is supposed to resemble the instruments of Christ's crucifixion. The corona represents the crown of thorns, the lacy white fringe of the flower is likened to the halo, the stamens and pistils represent the nails of the cross, while the sepals and petals stand for the Ten Faithful Apostles. To anyone knowing the full story, the name given this fruit bears a beautiful significance. Unfortunately, however, the flower is rarely seen and invariably the uninformed public is prone to attach the wrong meaning to the word. Many seem to think that it is supposed to bring out the wolf in them and politely refuse to partake of it—at least in public. This unfortunate interpretation of the name has been very detrimental to the commercial development of this fruit and since passiflora edulis is the only species cultivated to any extent, it would seem the generic name passiflora should be used and the name of Passion Fruit should be discouraged. The above are only a few of the many instances where proper guidance in the nomenclature of fruits may have a very important bearing on the future development of some of our subtropical fruit

industries.

Wherever feasible, we believe that the generic name should be used as the common name. This would eliminate much confusion and misrepresentation and would be an important step in educating the public in the use of scientific instead of common names.

A great deal of confusion exists with regard to the nomenclature of the Guava. This situation also exists with reference to many of our citrus fruits. Since Dr. Webber is the world's most outstanding authority on the botany of both of these fruits, we would like at this time to request the President of this Association to appoint Dr. Webber as a member of this committee. We feel sure that with the able assistance of Dr. Webber we will be able to accomplish much toward clearing up the confusion that exists in the nomenclature of these and other fruits.

The next important function of our committee is the registration of old well known and proven varieties of subtropical fruits such as the Wilson and Suebelle Sapotes and the Deliciosa and Whaley Cherimoyas. The name of the original grower and the history connected with the development of many of these fruits is not available. Since the originators of many of these varieties are in some cases no longer alive, it is felt that these fruits should be registered and photographed and the expense borne by this society. The board of directors of your society have appropriated \$10.00 to be used for the registration of fruits that fall within the above group. This will give us an opportunity to register ten varieties. These varieties have not as yet been selected by this committee.

When the fruits selected by the committee are in prime condition, they will be photographed and registered. It is hoped that the Board of Directors of this Society will see fit to make a similar annual appropriation for the next few years until we have an opportunity to complete the registration of all varieties of sub-tropicals. Needless to say, your committee will be most careful in the selection of these varieties chosen for registration as we have no desire to clutter up our files with varieties that will soon be obsolete.

Your committee has now registered five varieties of new subtropical fruits. The first fruit to be registered with the Society was a cherimoya called the "Ott" which was developed by Mr. William H. Ott of Whittier. This fruit is of very high quality and has a sugar content of 26.51%.

The next fruit to be registered by the Society was a sapote registered by Martin Hankins of Carlsbad. It is a fruit of very high quality and has been given the name "Vinmar". It showed a sugar content of 26%.

The third fruit to be registered by the Society was a sapote which is called the "Wood" after Winfield M. Wood of Encinitas who originated it. It has a sugar content of 20% and is a very prolific bearer.

Fruit number four is a feijoa registered under the name of "Home". This fruit was developed by the late Professor Wm. T. Home of the Citrus Experiment Station and registered by Dean Palmer as a tribute to Professor Home's keen interest in the feijoa. It is a very fine variety, sub-acid in flavor and having a sugar content of 12%. The fruit is medium to large, prolific and has a very delightful flavor.

Fruit number five is a Carissa registered by Dr. T. W. Whitaker of the Torrey Pines Experiment Station. It is a very prolific bearer and a fruit of high quality. It has a sugar content of around 17%.

All fruits registered have been photographed in black and white as well as in color.

Pictures of most of the varieties accepted for registration appeared in the last issue of the Yearbook. I believe that we have made a good start in our registration program and I would like to again appeal to you for your cooperation by sending in seedlings for registration.

Anyone having a superior seedling of any of the tropical or subtropical fruits or nuts may submit samples to the committee for consideration. Specimens of fruits must be sent to the committee together with certain specific information and a small registration fee. The registration fee is \$1.00 and is used to photograph the fruit provided it is accepted for registration. If not accepted for registration, the fruit will not be photographed and the registration fee will be returned to the applicant.

Interested persons should write to the California Avocado Society, 4833

Everett Avenue, Los Angeles, for specific information and registration blanks, or contact any member of the committee for blanks and information. The committee is composed of the following:

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402 Civic Center  
San Diego, California  
James G. Prance  
1336 Bush Street  
San Diego, California  
A. G. Hazzard  
Vista, California  
James H. Macpherson  
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Marvin Rounds  
Citrus Experiment Station  
Riverside, California  
Dr. J. Eliot Coit  
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Fallbrook, California  
Dr. P. P. Halma  
University of California  
Los Angeles, California  
Carter Barrett  
P.O. Box 285  
Whittier, California

Fruits should not be sent in until instructions for registration have been obtained. All fruits properly submitted will be carefully examined by the committee and if accepted, will take their place in the horticultural history of California.

**SUBMIT YOUR FRUITS ON MERIT. THEY MAY BECOME LIVING AND LASTING MEMORIALS TO YOU AND CALIFORNIA.**

Those fruits in which the variety committee is most interested are all citrus fruits, the cherimoya, guava, feijoa, mango, carissa, loquat, macadamia litchi and jujube. Other fruits will be accepted for registration providing they lend themselves to vegetative propagation.

With your cooperation and support, I am sure that we will soon have a complete registration of all worthwhile tropical and subtropical fruits and, , thereby, prevent the

confusion and chaos that has accompanied the development of most all other fruit Industries.