

## **Avocado Industry Research Committee**

**Marvin B. Rounds,**  
*Chairman*

Comparatively little research activity has been started in an effort to learn of the relationship of the tree and all the factors (involving the weather, the soil, and orchard management.)

It is true, that those who have been responsible for projects relating to practices have developed some very valuable information. However, money has been limited, and personnel not available for a well rounded program to cover all phases of orchard management.

Recognition is hereby made of the splendid work done by Prof. Hodgson and his co-workers, especially on the bearing of the Fuerte.

Individuals, representative of the industry, have from time to time voiced their opinion as to needed work, and temporary committees have been formed for special purposes, but no permanent committee had been organized which represented all groups.

During 1948 the California Avocado Society asked the representatives of the Avocado Section of the California Farm Bureau Federation, and the Avocado Departments of the five Avocado Counties, to meet with the board of directors of the Society, for the purpose of organizing a research committee. The result was a committee composed of the President of the Society as Chairman, the immediate past President of the Society, the Chairman of the Avocado section of the Farm Bureau Federation, the chairmen of each of the Avocado Departments of the five Avocado counties, and the secretary of the Avocado Society as secretary of the Committee.

The function of the committee is, to at all times be apprised of the needs of the industry, to make these needs known to the proper authorities, and to keep in close touch with all research studies being made. It will also be its function to assist in disseminating information contained in progress reports on such projects.

### **CLASSIFICATION OF PROJECTS**

At a meeting of the Committee in consideration of all projects, the order of importance in determining the ones which should be pushed to completion was as follows:

1. Avocado Root-rot.
2. Variety studies.
3. Root-stock studies.

Avocado root-rot studies are being prosecuted by both the pathology and the irrigation

divisions of the University, both at Riverside and at Westwood. The variety work is carried on by the variety committee of the Society and by U.C.L.A. and the Citrus Experiment Station.

The root-stock project is largely carried on by the University at Los Angeles.

Some experimental work has been done on other subjects, and they are important. It is hoped that, as money and personnel is available, other phases of avocado orchard management will be systematically studied.

Other projects which the committee has on the list are as follows:

Breeding and selection.

Fertilization.

Study of diseases of tree and fruit, especially sun-blotch.

Pest control.

Bearing behavior.

Study of products and by-products.

Efficiency studies.

Irrigation.

Tillage.

Pruning.

Minor element studies.

Harvesting.

Maturity studies.