

REPORT OF THE AVOCADO VARIETY COMMITTEE OF THE CALIFORNIA AVOCADO SOCIETY

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Chairman

The interest in varieties has increased tremendously especially in California counties where the industry is expanding into new areas with few or no commercial plantings. Factors involved with the increased interest are concerned with prevailing high prices and low returns for oranges in major producing districts and also a comparatively low average return for lemons during the last two or three years.

Local factors in some sections are recognized such for example as quick decline of oranges in the San Gabriel Valley. Because of the expansion into areas which have not been thoroughly proved to be satisfactory commercial areas for prevailing varieties it is necessary to experiment by trying not only old varieties but the newer ones which indicate promise.

Climatic adaptation is the important consideration in the experimental field of avocado varieties. A given variety may bear more efficiently and bear a better quality fruit in some areas other than the one in which it is discovered. Guatemalan varieties appear to be better adapted to more coastal influences while thin-skins or Mexican race varieties may do better in an inland area. Hybrids of thin-skin varieties and Guatemalan appear to be more likely to grow and bear more satisfactorily in a transitional area or at least in an intermediate district.

Therefore the several varieties under experimentation are being selected primarily for trial with a consideration of these facts.

In order to inform the members of the Society relative to the status of the study of varieties now under trial by the variety committee in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Service and individual growers a list of those varieties is hereby given with certain brief description and information on each variety.

CARLOS—A hybrid originating at Villa Park. The fruit is green; shape is pyriform; weight, 8 to 10 oz.; seed, medium; oil content, high; season, June to Sept.; flavor, good; frost resistance, about like Anaheim. A few trees of this variety have been grown and distributed for trial and study.

CORONA—A Guatemalan originating at Goleta. The fruit is green; shape, oval; weight, 6 to 8 oz.; seed, medium; oil content, high; season, June-July; flavor, good; frost resistance, not determined. This variety is being propagated for distribution and trial in several areas. It is more likely to succeed in a coastal area.

CLIFTON—A Mexican originating at Glendora. The fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 8 to 19 oz.; seed, large; flavor, good; oil content, medium; season, October to

December; frost resistance, very resistant. Trees planted at the Citrus Experiment Station in 1943 have borne fruit in 1947 and 1948. They have borne also at Corona.

DECEM—A hybrid originating at Carlsbad. It looks very much like a Fuerte. Fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 6 to 8 oz.; seed, medium; flavor, good; season, same as Fuerte. The only bearing tree is located in the plots at the Citrus Experiment Station. Progeny of this variety have been distributed and are growing in one or more areas.

ELSIE—A hybrid originating at Whittier. The fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 8 to 10 oz.; oil content, high; flavor, good; season, May to July; frost resistance, about the same as Fuerte. The Elsie is a patented fruit and has been quite well distributed in the avocado growing counties.

IRVING—A hybrid originating at Carlsbad. A green fruit; shape, pyriform; weight, 8 to 10 oz.; seed small; oil content, high; flavor, good; season, December to February; frost resistance, almost as great as Fuerte. This variety is bearing quite well at Riverside and shows promise of being satisfactory for inland as well as coastal districts.

KAREN (formerly Twomey)—A hybrid originating at Vista. The fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 6 to 10 oz.; seed, small; oil content, high; flavor, good; frost resistance not known. This variety will be tried in many districts.

LOIS—A hybrid originating at Carlsbad. The fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 6 to 12 oz.; seed, small; oil content, high; flavor, good; season, May to August. This variety is included in plots both at the coast and inland.

LODGE—A hybrid originating at La Mesa. A green fruit; shape, pyriform; weight, 6 to 10 oz.; seed, small; oil content, high; season, December to February. This variety is bearing at La Mesa, Fallbrook, and La Habra. It is being tried both in the coastal and inland areas.

NOWELS—A hybrid originating in Los Angeles. The fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 5 to 7 oz.; seed, small; oil content, high; flavor, good; season, November and December; frost resistance, about the same as Fuerte. The tree has a tendency to bear small fruit when the crop is heavy. Being propagated for trial both on the coast and inland. Has borne well at Riverside.

REGINA—A hybrid originating in Los Angeles. Fruit color, green; shape, pyriform; weight, 5 to 7 oz.; seed, small; oil content, high; flavor, good; season, February and March; frost resistance, it is quite susceptible to frost. Fruit very small and in clusters when crop is heavy. This variety is included in the experimental plots.

RINCON—A hybrid originating at Carlsbad. Fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 6 to 8 oz.; seed, medium; oil content, medium; flavor, good; season, April to June; frost resistance, probably quite susceptible. It has a tendency to bear very small fruit when the crop is heavy. This variety is being propagated for experimental plots especially in Santa Barbara County.

STRONG—A hybrid originating in Los Angeles. A Fuerte-like fruit with the season the same as Fuerte. The frost resistance is about the same as Fuerte. It is being distributed for trial in experimental plots.

SILLIMAN—A hybrid originating at La Habra Heights. It is showing a marked indication

of being a consistent bearer. In that area the skin has a tendency to be corky. Resistance to frost probably a little less than the Fuerte. Being grown for trial for the coastal areas especially.

TANTLINGER—A hybrid originating near Santa Ana. Fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 6 to 10 oz.; seed, small; oil content, high; flavor, good; season, same as Fuerte; frost resistance, same as Fuerte. This variety is being generally tried in many plots in Southern California.

WRIGHT—A hybrid originating in the city of Whittier. Fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 6 to 8 oz.; seed, small; oil content, high; season, October; frost resistance, good. This fruit is being tried in many parts of Southern California.

WURTZ—A hybrid originating at Encinitas. Fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 8 to 10 oz.; seed, large; oil content, high; flavor, good; season, May to July; resistance to frost, more so than many other hybrids. It is now being grown for experimental plots in several counties. It is in bearing at Riverside and on the San Diego Coast.

ZUTANO—A hybrid but tending toward Mexican race characteristics. It originated at Fallbrook. The fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 8 to 10 oz.; seed, large; flavor, fair; season, November to January. This is a commercial variety which is now being tried in many parts of Southern California. It is a very consistent producer and resistant to frost.

The following are a few of the newer varieties which are being grown in localized areas on a comparatively small scale.

BONITA—A Guatemalan originating in Santa Barbara County. The fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 10 to 14 oz.; seed, medium; oil content, medium; flavor, good; season, August to October.

ENCANADA—A hybrid originating at La Habra Heights. Fruit is green; shape, pyriform; weight, 6 to 10 oz.; seed, small; flavor, fair; season, July to September.

FREY—Guatemalan originating at Baldwin Park. Fruit is green; shape, pyriform, but usually about 50 percent of the fruit have crooked necks. The weight of the fruit is from 14 to 18 oz.; seed, small; flavor, good; oil content, high; season, July to August. It is quite susceptible to frost. It is being tried mostly in the San Gabriel Valley.

Two Varieties Being Generally Planted

EDRANOL—This variety is a very good one from a standpoint of appearance and flavor especially in coastal areas but is erratic in bearing habit. In locations where it will bear satisfactorily it should be a profitable variety to plant.

RYAN—This is a very good variety from the standpoint of appearance, eating quality, resistance to frost, and marketability. However it is erratic when we consider production, although in some locations it appears to bear fairly well. Some trees bear consistently.

EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS

Experimental plots have been arranged by the Agricultural Extension Service in each of

the counties and the variety committee is cooperating by supplying grafts and buds of the several experimental varieties in most of the Southern California Counties. Arrangements with several nurserymen have been made to grow trees for distribution to cooperating growers.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL PLANTING 1949

Table I lists the varieties recommended with a brief description of each variety.

TABLE I

<i>Var.</i>	<i>Mkt.</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Oz.</i>	<i>Shape</i>	<i>Oil</i>	<i>Skin</i>	<i>Seed</i>	<i>Race</i>
Anaheim	Fair	Jun - Sep	Green	12-24	Ovoid	Low	Med.	Med.	Guat.
Carlsbad	Good	Apr - Jun	Purple	10-15	Pyr.	Med.	Med.	Med.	Guat.
Fuerte	Excel.	Nov - Jun	Green	6-16	Pyr.	High	Leath.	Med.	Hyb.
Hass	Good	Apr - Oct	Black	6-10	Ovoid	High	Thick	Sml.	Guat.
M'Arthur	Fair	Jul - Oct	Green	10-14	Pyr.	Med.	Med.	Med.	Guat.
Nabal	Good	Jun - Sep	Green	14-30	Round	High	Med.	Med.	Guat.

TABLE II

According to Areas

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| 1. San Diego County, inland | <i>Fuerte, Hass</i> |
| 2. San Diego County, coastal | <i>Anaheim, Carlsbad,
Hass, Nabal</i> |
| 3. Whittier, Rivera, North Orange County | <i>Fuerte, Hass</i> |
| 4. Southern Orange County | <i>Fuerte</i> |
| 5. San Gabriel Valley, Foothills, Los Angeles County | <i>Fuerte, Hass</i> |
| 6. Ventura, Santa Barbara Coastal
(Note: Selected strains of Fuerte are meeting with success in several locations in this area.) | <i>Fuerte, Hass,
MacArthur</i> |
| 7. Ventura County, intermediate
(Ojai, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Camarillo Heights) | <i>Fuerte</i> |
| 8. Interior: Riverside, Corona, San Bernardino | <i>Fuerte</i> |



The parent Ganter tree, in Whittier, photographed during a 1949 tour of the C.A.S. Avocado Variety Committee. The tree is 49 years old, and measures 114 inches in trunk circumference.

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