

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN EXPLORATION

The search for resistant rootstocks to control avocado root rot is now being actively pushed by the various divisions of the University of California interested in the avocado decline problem. There seems at present unanimity of agreement that this offers the most promising approach to this problem. All types of avocados and avocado relatives are being studied for this purpose.

This increased interest by our technical men offers a new challenge to the Committee on Foreign Exploration to intensify its efforts to locate new avocado specimens in foreign countries for this study. A new series of explorations are planned for the near future and will be reported upon as they develop.

During the next few years we would like to see imported all existing avocado species and types for this study.

First Local Crop of Wild Avocado Seeds Harvested

The first crop of *P. Floccosa* (wild avocado of Aquila) seeds were harvested in April at the Griswold Ranch, near Fallbrook. The original tree at that location, now four years old, produced 40 pounds of fruits. These are the first to be produced in California of *P. Floccosa*, and will be tried out as root stocks. *P. Floccosa*, although not immune to *Phytophthora Cinnamomi* fungi, shows marked resistance to it (see 1951 report); and the study of its seedling variations will be of great interest.



Fruits of the wild avocado Aquila (Persea Floccosa) from tree planted on Griswold Ranch, San Luis Rey Heights, in 1948. The 1952 crop (at right) from this single young tree is indicative of its bearing habit. At left is shown a typical fruit cluster. The possible advantages of this species for avocado rootstock are currently under investigation.

Tour and Exploration of C. Victoria, Mexico

The committee is making a further exploration of the C. Victoria area of northeastern Mexico this summer. This is the trip that was announced for last year but postponed because of the 1951 Rio Grande freeze. This area contains many interesting natural

avocado crosses such as West Indian x Mexican. We will be looking for possible fall varieties for California. The degree of recovery from last year's freeze will give us a unique opportunity to observe hardiness to cold in advance of test in California. We are advised that there will be much fruit to observe on numerous seedling trees in the area.

Good accommodations in close proximity to the avocado plantings make it possible to take a large party on this trip, so we have planned it as a combination tour and exploration open to 20 men members of the Society. The Society membership has already been advised of the availability of this tour to those who can qualify.

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