

REPORT OF THE AVOCADO VARIETY COMMITTEE - JUNE 6, 1953

Marvin B. Rounds
Chairman

The expansion of avocado planting into new districts and the increase of acreage in older ones has stimulated a search for new and profitable varieties.

Further study of the growth and production of the Fuerte variety in certain areas which have been known to be less profitable for that variety has led the committee to restrict the number of districts where this variety should be planted.

Certain new varieties are being tried in those questionable areas with the hope of finding one or more which may prove satisfactory for commercial rating.

The list of varieties recommended for commercial planting for 1953 remains the same. One change was made in adding Hass to the recommendation for area 7 in Ventura County.

Table I. Recommended varieties for commercial planting for 1953.

Var.	Mkt.	Season	Color	Ozs.	Shape	Oil	Skin	Seed	Race
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.
MacArthur	Fair	Jul - Oct	Green	10-14	Pyr.	Med.	Med.	Med.	Guat.
Rincon	Good	Feb - Apr	Green	6-10	Pyr.	High	Med.	Med.	Hyb.

Table II. Recommended varieties according to agricultural areas.

Area 1. *Fuerte and Hass*. That portion of San Diego County which includes Fallbrook, Vista, Escondido and La Mesa.

Area 2. *Anaheim, Carlsbad and Hass*. The coastal district of San Diego County.

Area 3. *Fuerte and Hass*. North Orange County and that portion of Los Angeles County which includes East Whittier and La Habra Heights.

Area 4. *Fuerte*. This includes Orange County south of the Santa Ana River.

Area 5. *Fuerte and Hass*. Foothill sections of San Gabriel Valley and other intermediate districts of Los Angeles County. The Fuerte may not be found profitable on the valley floor and in the colder parts of this area. The Hass may also not be found profitable in the colder sections of this area.

Area 6. *Anaheim, MacArthur, Hass, Rincon and Fuerte*. This includes the coastal districts of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. The Fuerte is profitable in this area

only in certain well located districts.

Area 7. *Fuerte, Hass and MacArthur*. This is the intermediate section of Ventura County and includes the communities of Camarillo and Santa Paula.

Area 7A. *Fuerte*. This includes the interior section of Ventura County and includes the communities of Ojai, Fillmore, Piru, and the district east of Santa Paula.

Area 8. *Fuerte*. This variety, however, is successful only in warm sheltered locations in the communities of San Bernardino, Riverside and Corona.

In table III following will be found a list of varieties which the committee believe may prove profitable and of value commercially.

Table III. Experimental varieties which have given evidence of being adapted to coastal influences.

Var.	Season	Ozs.	Color	Shape
Bonita	Aug - Oct	13	Green	Pyr.
Corona	Jun - Jul	7	Green	Oval
Decem	Dec - Feb	6-8	Green	Pyr.
Emerald	Jan - Feb	8-10	Green	Ovoid or Pyr.
Halsted	Dec - Jan	6-10	Green	Pyr.
Irving	Dec - Feb	8-10	Green	Pyr.
Mesa	May - July	8-10	Green	Ovoid
Regina	Feb - Mar	6	Green	Pyr.
Silliman	May - Jun	6-8	Green	Pyr.
Wurtz	May - Sep	8-10	Green	Pyr.
Zutano	Nov - Jan	8-10	Green	Pyr.

These varieties have shown merit and are worthy of trial especially in coastal areas and are suggested for experimental planting.

Bonita. Many trees of this variety have been planted in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties and should have further trials. The fruit is one of good quality.

Corona. Has given evidence of early bearing in the coastal area. The fruit is of good quality but should have further study before it is generally planted.

Decem. Has shown indications of good production in San Diego County.

Emerald. This variety has produced well at Riverside. It has been propagated in the San Diego coastal area and has given indications of being a worthwhile variety to try not only on the coast but in intermediate locations.

Hoisted. This variety has produced a better quality fruit in Ventura County than more inland sections where the fruit is not as good quality partly because of corkiness.

Irving. The bearing habit and the quality of the fruit has been excellent at Carlsbad, the location of the original tree. The bearing habit is alternate but it has borne quite well at Riverside. It should be given further trial in the coastal areas.

Mesa. This variety is showing signs of early bearing not only on the Santa Barbara and Ventura coasts but in more inland districts especially in Orange County. It should be tried in intermediate locations in the San Gabriel Valley.

Regina. This variety is worthy of trial in coastal locations but the fruit is too corky away from the coast.

Silliman. The tree bears well and the fruit has good flavor, but in the location where it originated the skin is too corky. It is being tried in coastal locations to find out if the skin texture will be improved .

Wurtz. Trees of the Wurtz are being propagated and sold in the San Diego coastal area and there is quite an interest in the variety in Santa Barbara County because of early production of high quality fruit.

Zutano. The Zutano is being planted in a number of districts in Southern California. In some locations there is corkiness and end spot but this condition varies with the season and the location. The Zutano is a fruit of good eating quality if the oil content is allowed to increase well above the minimum of 8%.

Table IV. Experimental varieties which have given evidence of being worthwhile to try in transitional, intermediate, and inland areas.

Var.	Season	Ozs.	Color	Shape
Bacon	Dec - Feb	6-10	Green	Pyr.
Clifton	Oct - Dec	8-10	Green	Pyr.
Decem	Dec - Feb	6-8	Green	Pyr.
Elsie	Apr - July	8-10	Green	Pyr.
Emerald	Jan - Feb	8-10	Green	Pyr.
Irving	Dec - Feb	8-10	Green	Pyr.
Mayo (Covocado)	Oct - Nov	8-10	Green	Pyr.
Rincon	Feb - Apr	6-10	Green	Pyr.
Zutano	Nov - Jan	8-10	Green	Pyr.

Those who are experimenting with varieties in intermediate valleys have had difficulty in finding varieties which will both produce heavily and also bear quality fruit. Those listed above have shown some indication of being satisfactory. However, frost is quite a factor in unprotected locations in connection with finding a good variety.

Bacon. While the Bacon is not the answer to the need of having a variety for October, it may help to provide a variety for cold places. It has promise of being a good quality fruit as well as a consistent and early bearer. The results at this time indicate that it will bear well in any district. In Orange County it not only bears satisfactorily but the fruit has a good appearance with a good green skin.

Clifton. The Clifton has not borne satisfactorily in intermediate areas but should be observed for a while in inland areas. It has borne fairly well' in the Riverside district.

Decem. This variety should have further study.

Elsie. This variety is comparatively slow in coming into bearing but there: is considerable evidence that it will be a good variety from a commercial; standpoint in most of the areas of Southern California.

Emerald. This variety has done very well at the Citrus Experiment Station near Riverside. The quality of the fruit is good with little or no corkiness of the skin. Trees of the Emerald have been quite well distributed but they are not in bearing.

Mayo. This variety is a precocious producer as well as being quite consistent. Most of the crop each year has reached the minimum of 8% during October and therefore has been marketed at a time when prices were at a high level.

Rincon. Experimental plots of the Rincon have been set out quite generally in coastal districts. The variety is recommended commercially for area 6 including the coastal locations of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Since it has done well at Brea in the Avocado Society plots, there is some hope that it will prove to be satisfactory in more inland agricultural areas.

During the year, two field days were held by the committee. One was held September 26, 1952 in the Corona district and the second in Santa Barbara County, April 7, 1953. At the former meeting of the committee the Anaheim variety was suggested as a commercial one for Area 6, the coastal area of both Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. At the committee meeting in Santa Barbara, April 7, the Hass was added to the intermediate area of Ventura County as a commercial variety.

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