

## **REPORT OF THE VARIETY COMMITTEE**

Persuant to its responsibility to thoroughly study new avocado varieties, the Committee has been observing the Reed avocado, and has asked Oliver Atkins to make a report on that variety. The Variety Committee does not recommend this variety for commercial planting at this time.

*T. J. Todd*, Chairman Variety Committee

### **OBSERVATIONS, DESCRIPTION AND BEHAVIOR OF THE REED AVOCADO**

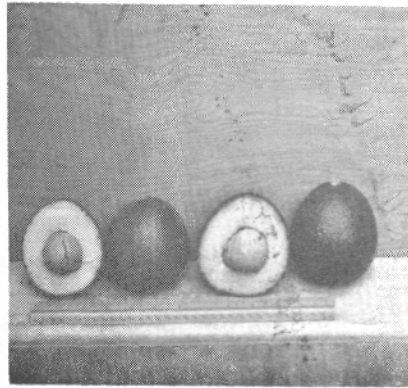
#### **Oliver H. Atkins**

The original Reed avocado tree resulted from a seed planted about 1948 by the late James S. Reed at 3767 Valley Street in Carlsbad, California. Mr. Reed observed this tree for many years and grafted other trees in his orchard over to Reeds. He was impressed enough to file for a patent on it. Plant patent No. 1,967 was granted on August 16, 1960.

The fruit is a definite Guatemalan type possibly a hybrid of the Nabal and Anaheim. The tree and fruit show characteristics of both these varieties. The tree is upright and vigorous in growth. The fruit is green and round, similar to the Nabal without the callous marks. The seed is small to medium in relation to fruit size. The trees grown on my ranch and my brother's (Raymond N. Atkins) adjoining ranch have produced fruit much larger, many 12 to 18 oz., than the parent trees in Carlsbad. Possibly as they grow older the fruit size will decrease. The trees bore the second year on grafts and the third year from nursery planted trees. They have born fairly consistent crops alternating slightly after heavy crop years.

The trees bloom late in the spring and the fruit matures the next year July through September. The tolerance to frost is probably similar to the Hass. Due to their upright growth they can be planted in a close pattern say 15 x 15 or interplanted.

The following is a report of a Reed fruit submitted for test by Carl Larsen, fieldman for Calavo Growers, in 1963.



Reed Avocado Fruit



Reed avocado tree—5 years old. Note the three-foot yardstick in the foreground.

## FRUIT QUALITY STUDIES

Variety: Reed; Size: 12; District 25.

Normal Season: Not stated.

Present Grade: Miscellaneous Green.

Date Fruit Taken: September, 1963.

Fruit was not precooled but was ripened at controlled temperatures of 65°.

Fruit ripened in 6-8 days and kept well both externally and internally for three days after ripe then noted slight maturity discoloration externally but when last fruit cut on 4th day ripe interior was still very good. Flesh is smooth and creamy and has a good flavor, a very slight nutty flavor and noted no bite or strongness.

This is a large medium green obloid shaped fruit. Skin is slightly rough. It has a profusion of small light lenticels yet they are scattered at the stem end. At the extreme blossom end there is an area about the size of a dime that is quite free of lenticels. Stem is medium and slightly offset. Skin is thick and does peel easily from the flesh. Flesh is medium cream and does not adhere to the seed. Seed is tight in the cavity, coat is medium thick and adheres to the seed.

### FRUIT QUALITY RATING

Softening Characteristics	<i>Max. Score</i>	<i>Score</i>
1. Flavor Rating	40	32
2. Detection	20	15
3. Discoloration - External	10	10
4. Discoloration - Internal	10	10
5. Edible Period	20	20
1 Days	6	
2 Days	13	
3 Days	20	
Oil Test Fruit: $193/4 = 19.7$	100	Total 87
Flavor Rating: $80\% = 32$		
		Fruit Quality Rating 87