

**CALIFORNIA AVOCADO SOCIETY - 1976 AWARD OF HONOR  
OLIVER ATKINS**



Oliver Atkins, a Fallbrook avocado nurseryman and grower, was as the 1976 recipient of the California Avocado Society's award of honor.

The award of honor is bestowed upon an individual as a tribute and acknowledgment of thanks and respect for outstanding meritorious service to the avocado industry.

Mr. Atkins first arrived in San Diego County in 1925, as a youngster, when his family relocated in Vista. He attended Oceanside High School and developed his first nursery while a senior in high school. His first job was with Vista Development Co., involving surveying and irrigation system installation.

During the mid 30's Atkins was employed by Calavo Growers in Vista.

Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Atkins began a period of employment with the A. G. Hazard Citrus and Avocado Nursery in Vista.

After serving with the Army infantry forces in the Pacific, he rejoined the Hazard Nursery as a partner.

In 1951, Atkins began his own nursery operation, first in Vista and later moving to Fallbrook where he is today involved as both a nurseryman and a grower.

Mr. Atkins' service to the California Industry includes: Past Director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau, Past Chairman of the Avocado Commodity Group of the San Diego County Farm Bureau, Director of the California Avocado Society since 1967, President of the California Avocado Society in 1971 and 1972.

He was instrumental in the organization of the California Avocado Society's Nurserymen

section serving as its first chairman. In 1973, he was San Diego County Farmer of the year. Additionally, he was grower representative of the Avocado Production Research Committee. Also, Chairman, California Avocado Society's Variety Committee.

Mr. Atkins continues to be exceptionally active in the promotion and development of the California Avocado Industry.