

**Arona—New Cultivar of Avocado in The Canary Islands**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The avocado (*Persea Americana* Mill) is the second most important fruit bearing tree in the Canary Islands, with close to 2,500 acres (1,000 hectares) being cultivated. The principal commercial cultivars are Fuerte, Hass, and Bacon. There are others in the testing process on the Islands. They mainly include the most important cultivars grown in California, Florida, and Israel. Recently, the CRIDA-11 have initiated a process to select seedlings that we hope will begin to give results in a short time.

The new cultivar we are going to describe is now starting to develop commercially. The fruit has been exported to the Spanish market, specifically to Barcelona, and to Canada with excellent results.

**DESCRIPTION**

*ORIGIN:*

The tree originated from a plant of unknown seedling, (possibly of Bacon ancestry). It came by way of Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife) from the garden of D. Juan Gonzalez Escovar in Arona (Tenerife) in 1962. This plant bore fruit for the first time in 1966, and has come to produce 1,100 pounds (500 Kgs.) in one harvest.

Encouraged by its excellent productivity and the commercial longevity of the fruit (45 days in perfect condition refrigerated at 7°C), Mr. Gonzalez Escovar began in earnest to cultivate this fruit at several ranches. As of today he has 1,123 trees at three ranches, located in Arona ("Morro Negro" Ranch, altitude 360 meters above sea level, "La Hoya " Ranch, altitude 470 meters above sea level, and "Los Cercaditos" Ranch, altitude 600 meters above sea level).

*CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TREE*

The tree is erect and very similar in appearance to the cultivated Bacon, although the leaves are softer and less brittle. It is tolerant of the cold and consistently more abundantly productive than other cultivars.

*OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:*

Shape of fruit: pyriform

External appearance: excellent

Color of skin: green with large lenticels when harvested. It gives an attractive appearance, different from other cultivars. They turn mahogany color when ripe.

Corky blotches on the fruit: none to very little

Texture of skin: medium to thick

Separation of skin: easily separated

Non-adherence of seed coat to the pulp: good. The seed does conform to the cavity, even though it is small; the coat adheres somewhat to the pulp.

Color and appearance of the pulp: cream, attractive

Fiber: normal

Eating quality: acceptable to good

Ripening of fruit: uniform

Darkening of cut surface: none

Harvest season: December to April in the Canary Islands

*CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FRUIT:*

**Weight of the Fruit:**

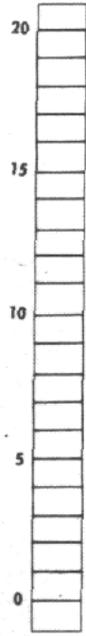
**WEIGHT OF 13 FRUIT (IN GRAMS)**

ALTITUDE ABOVE SEA LEVEL	WEIGHT OF 13 FRUIT (IN GRAMS)		
	Average	Minimum	Maximum
360 Meters	371	260	515
470 Meters	394	290	505
600 Meters	392	300	600

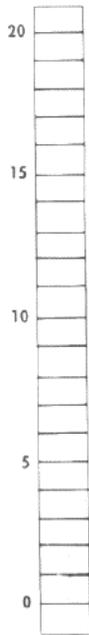
**Relative Size of Seed:**

**PROPORTION SEED/FRUIT (%)  
OF 13 FRUIT**

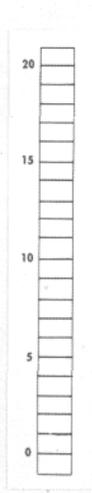
ALTITUDE ABOVE SEA LEVEL	PROPORTION SEED/FRUIT (%) OF 13 FRUIT		
	Average	Minimum	Maximum
360 Meters	6.0	0.0	11.9
470 Meters	8.5	0.1	15.6
600 Meters	8.5	2.2	15.6



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