

## The Multiple-Graft Method of Top-Working Large Trees

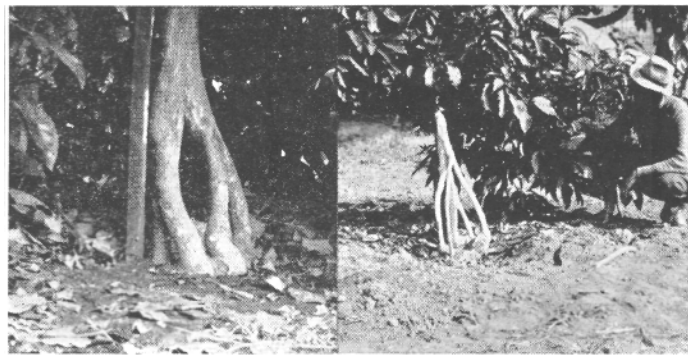
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When I first came in contact with the avocado industry about seventeen years ago, there were Buttons, Spinks, and such varieties selling at fancy prices. But now, you know, such kinds are not wanted on the market. There are many large, vigorous trees of these less preferred varieties that can profitably be grafted to good fruiting strains of the varieties now preferred by the market. Among these should be included unproductive trees of the preferred varieties, notably Fuerte.

Where can proven strains of these preferred varieties be obtained for this grafting? Most of us have seen occasional trees in orchards or in the same environment and care that have given successive satisfactory crops. In my grafting work I have found a few such trees, including some Fuertes, and have made arrangements to cut the propagating wood for those who want the best. I know of a case where nineteen year old Fuertes were grafted to such a productive strain, and in the third year produced more fruit than had been obtained in the previous nineteen years.

In grafting, and especially with large trees, it has been a serious problem, with methods used in the past, to get the stumps to heal over. To overcome this problem, I have perfected my inarched graft method. With it the entire root system is put to work at once to rebuild the tree. The picture shows how growth from the entire circumference of the stump is inarched together to obtain the maximum growth and mechanical strength in the shortest possible time. It is more complicated than the usual methods used, but a more rapid growth of the grafts and a shorter time required for converting the trees much more than offset the extra time and expense involved in its use. Where growth is retarded on one side of a stump until it dies back, injury is to be expected to the corresponding root system, while if suckers are allowed to grow it means that much wasted energy.



Examples of inarched grafts by Mr. Dailey.