

## Avocado Notes from Haifa, Palestine

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Avocado trees have been planted experimentally in Palestine, mostly in the coastal plains of Judea and Sharon, on several occasions in the course of the last two decades. They have generally done well and gone to fruit quite normally. Climatic conditions seem not unfavourable, for frosts are so rare as to be of no practical consequence. However, winds are common and very injurious and special protection against them must be provided. Although we have not as yet emerged from the experimental stage with respect to the culture of this tree there seems to be sufficient ground for the belief that Mexican stock and varieties are best suited to our conditions. Of the latter the Fuerte seems perhaps most promising.

Until lately no fruit has ever reached the market, the little there was being consumed on the spot. This summer, I believe for the first time, a small quantity of fruit was placed by a Rehoboth grower on the Tel-Aviv market. I do not happen to know how this novelty was received. Nor must one judge by the first year's results in a matter like this. Moreover, if this is true in general it is all the more so in this particular case, in view of the rather disturbed state of the market in Palestine this summer, in consequence of Arab rioting and sabotage.

In conclusion I may say that while I feel optimistic concerning the cultural possibilities of the avocado in Palestine, marketing remains a problem. It will unquestionably call for prolonged educational campaigns, both in this country and abroad, before any extension may be given to this otherwise very desirable crop.