

## **The Avocado in Algeria**

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Up to the last few years, the avocado tree and its fruit were looked upon like a simple curiosity in Algeria, in spite of the works carried on by the learned botanist, late Dr. L. Trabut, to render popular that very interesting subtropical plant.

There were, here and there, in a few back-yards in the coastal area, some scarce but otherwise very prolific specimens.

One must wait till 1930 to see that fruit tree interest the amateur public fond of fruit curiosity, after we did put out an educational campaign in the special Algerian press, knowing the spectacular development of the avocado industry in America. A trip made in 1932 to the United States and including California of course, convinced us of the extensive possibilities of the avocado tree in the North African coast "gardens"<sup>1</sup> which much like the Pacific coast groves are endowed with a very favorable climate.

So a 5,000 seed importation from California was made late in 1934 by the intermediary of the San Francisco French Commercial Agency. Thanks to the diligence of Mr. R. Ricaud, then general secretary of the Agency, and thanks to the careful attention of the Calavo Growers Association, these seeds arrived at Algiers in a perfect condition and were planted with success in the Jardin d'Essai's greenhouses.

About 4,000 plants came up and were put out in nursery row a year after, where the public admired them.

Budding started in 1936 spring with budwood taken from the good trees which we did find at the Jardin d'Essai and belonging to two varieties introduced some 25 years ago; one is a "Puebla", the other a Guatemalan variety, but not yet exactly identified.

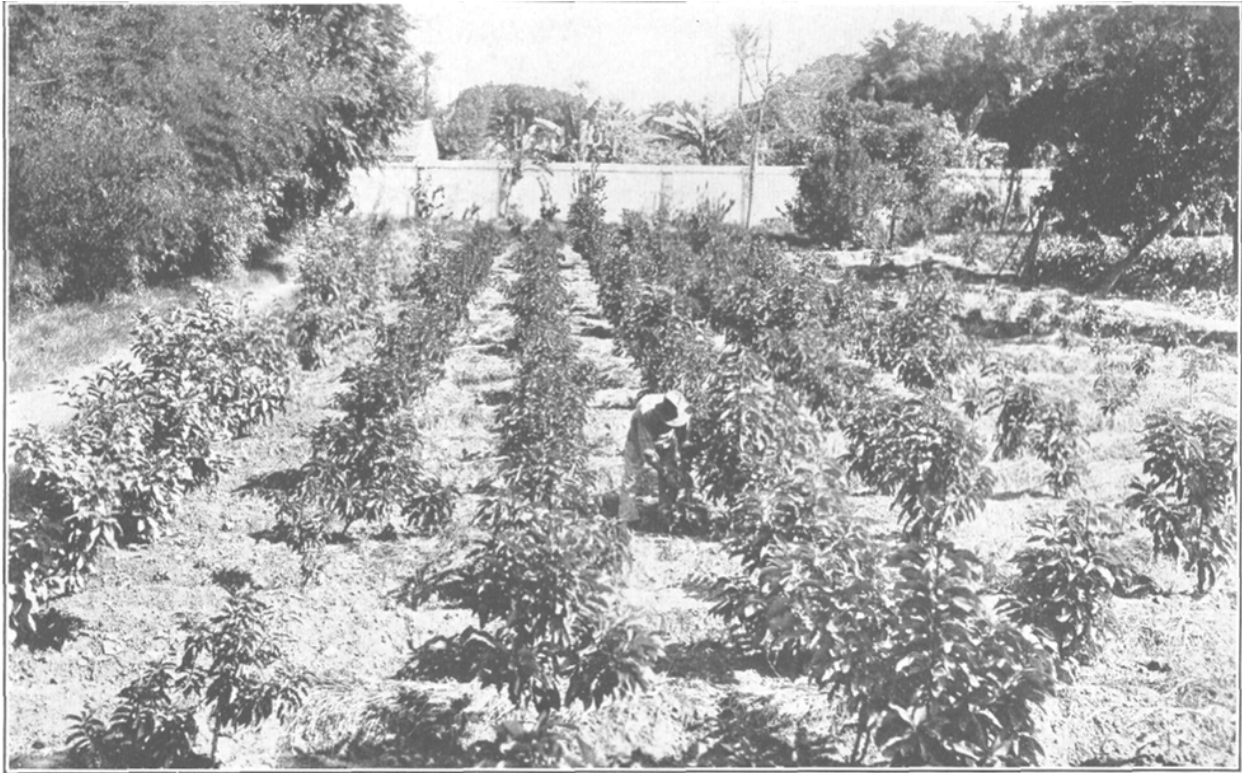
Some difficulties were found in the way and time of budding, giving uncertain results so far, in our conditions (a few hundred feet from seashore).

However with the acute practical judgment of M. Mauri, in charge of the propagation work, and the hearty cooperation of R. A. Lamour, a former California student, we hope to find the solution of budding problems very soon in order to give Algerian growers quite a lot of choice trees which will secure in the near future an appreciable production of that excellent fruit.

Happily the avocado consumption is increasing in France where it begins to be looked for by the well-to-do consumer who has learned to eat and appreciate it. It is the fruit of the rich's table and best "gourmets" in France!

Algeria, and French Northern Africa in general, is capable of supplying the metropolitan market if, as everything points out, it becomes more developed. It is a new fruit wealth in prospect which these countries will owe to the happy influence of the admirable

horticultural organization of our great friends in California.



Budding young avocado trees at the Jardin d'Essai du Hamma in Algeria.