

California Avocado Society 1944 Yearbook 29: 12-16

Report of the Committee on Varieties

California Avocado Society – 1944

War conditions have had a very considerable effect on the activities of this Committee. The effect of the first impact has been overcome by this time and the past year has seen a marked resumption of normal activities. Members of the committee have been able to do a little more field work than in the past war years; a meeting of the committee, held at Riverside, resulted in the new folder of variety recommendations, which is now in your hands; we have begun to secure an official set of color transparencies for projection, which show the different varieties of interest or illustrate important phases of this study; and much information has been gathered and properly filed at Riverside.

The Committee, itself, has been reduced to a small working group to facilitate exchange of information and the making of important decisions, as well as to conserve transportation. Many of its members are conducting private experiments of importance.

The heart of this report is the new folder of recommended varieties which is an integral part of this report. This folder is the result of a full day's study by members of the Committee, who represented all of the producing areas. It was further checked by a full meeting of the Board of Directors before final approval. We believe and hope that growers will feel that both the subject matter and the arrangement of this folder are a distinct improvement over any past presentation of the Committee. The Committee believes that the material and the manner of its presentation answers many criticisms of the past few years. It is only at intervals that there is a sufficient accumulation of data to justify important changes. This seems to be one of the milestones of progress. The folder is positive in character, rather than negative as during the past several years. The number of varieties placed before the growers for consideration has been drastically reduced, thus helping to gradually eliminate some of the complexities and losses involved in handling large numbers of odds and ends of varieties; the adaptation of varieties and their seasons have been confined to small local areas.

The Committee feels that experimentation should proceed in order that better varieties may be secured for commercial production in certain localities and seasons of the year. The Committee is not greatly concerned over any lack of experimentation by the growing public when nurserymen are still able to advertise and sell little known and tried varieties for from \$5.50 to \$7.50 per tree.

It is expected that this folder will be revised annually as information is obtained to justify changes.

No one of the varieties has been recommended for all districts and some on the commercial list for one or two areas only. It is still a matter of close decision as to whether certain varieties should be on the commercial list. In all such cases the variety has been placed on the experimental list. We know that any selections of this nature will not satisfy all interested parties, but each selection was unanimously made after diligent

study of all available information.

The varieties recommended for commercial planting in specifically designated areas are Anaheim, Puerte, Hass, MacArthur, Nabal and Ryan. The folder contains the essential information concerning them and as most of them have been repeatedly discussed in past reports and publications, it does not seem necessary to do so now.

The varieties recommended for further experimental use are Edranol, Encanada, Hazzard, Hellen, Irving and Macpherson. This list also is subject to change each year.

The grouping of localities into areas is, perforce, rather arbitrary in many cases. It would be impossible to do otherwise without making the arrangement too cumbersome. It is also acknowledged that the seasonal limits given may vary in an area and from year to year according to weather conditions. They are believed to be as correct as is possible under the circumstances. One example of the difficulties involved is the place of the Fuerte variety in Area 5 (Ventura-Santa Barbara). In part of that area the variety is a total failure, in another portion it is doing fairly well where special strains are used. Yet it still seems desirable to discourage general heavy planting of the Fuerte when it seems likely that due to late season of other varieties in that area, they would appear to hold hope of being more permanently profitable.

It will be noticed that no thinskin variety appears in this listing. It begins to seem probable that no thinskin type of fruit will have any considerable commercial position. The Committee is not unmindful, however, of the last admonition of the late, beloved Professor Home: "Don't forget my thinskins." We are still studying several with a certain degree of promise.

We feel that the action of Mr. H. H. Brokaw and Mr. Rudolph Hass, in releasing, through this committee, the patented Hass variety for propagation in Chile should be commended. This is a truly constructive and practical act of "Good Neighborliness" and has been gratefully so acknowledged by the recipient, Mr. Roger Magdahl of La Cruz, Chile, a member of this Society.

The industry and particularly this committee is deeply indebted to Marvin Rounds for his continuing extensive field work, his distribution of experimental budwood, his constant additions to and organization of the extensive file of variety information which he maintains for the Society at the Experiment Station and for his conception of the basic form of this new folder.

The Committee greatly regrets the ill health of Arthur Chenoweth of Fallbrook, which will probably prevent in the future the extensive experimentation and services which he has rendered heretofore. He has probably been one of its most diligent, conscientious and valuable workers.

We again impress on growers the importance of individual tree records, both to themselves and to the industry. Much of the progress that has been made in these studies has been through the limited number of such records available and future findings will depend even more upon them.

All growers are cordially invited to furnish information, criticisms and suggestions to the committee, which will further a better understanding of the problems faced by the industry in this phase of its operation and which may lead to their solution. We thank all

those who have contributed in this manner in the past and trust that the same cooperation in the future will continue to contribute to the welfare of the industry.

Respectfully submitted,

Carter Barrett, Chairman
 M. B. Rounds, Vice-Chairman
 J. Eliot Coit
 C. S. Crawford
 A. R. Chenoweth
 H. B. Griswold
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Area Adaptation of Varieties Seasons In Those Areas, So Far As Determined

Area (1)—San Diego County, Inland (Fallbrook, Vista, Escondido, La Mesa)		Area (4)—Foothills, Los Angeles County (Pasadena, Azusa, San Dimas, Covina)	
Variety	Season	Fuerte	December-April
Edranol	May-June	Hass	April-July
Fuerte	November-May	Ryan	May 15-July 15
Hass	May-July	Area (5)—Upper Coastal (Ventura, Santa Barbara)	
Hellen	August-October	Variety	Season
Nabal	June 15-August 15	Edranol	March-November
Ryan	June 15-August 15	Hass	June-September
Area (2)—San Diego County, Coastal (Chula Vista, Encinitas, Carlsbad, Oceanside)		Hellen	September-November
Anaheim	May-August	MacArthur	August-September
Hass	May-July	Nabal	August-September
Irving	December-January	Ryan	July-September
Nabal	July-August	Area (6)—Ventura Intermediate (Santa Paula, Fillmore, Ojai, Camarillo)	
Area (3)—Puente Hills and Orange County (La Habra and North Whittier Heights, Upper Orange County)		Edranol	June-August
Edranol	June-July	Fuerte	December-June
Encanada	July-September	Hass	June-August
Fuerte	December-May	Hazzard	June-July
Hass	May-July	Hellen	August-October
Hellen	August-October	Nabal	July-August
Nabal	June 15-August 15	Ryan	May-August
Ryan	June 15-August 15	Area (7)—Interior (Riverside, San Bernardino, Corona)	
		Fuerte	January-April

Varieties Recommended For Commercial Planting and Top-Working

Selected by the Committee on Varieties, May 1944

Variety	Market-ability	Oil Content	Color	Shape	Weight	Skin	Seed	Race
Anaheim	Fair	Low	Grass Green	Ovoid	12-28 ozs.	Med. Thick	Medium	Guatemalan
Fuerte	Excel.	High	Dull Green	Pyriform	7-16 ozs.	Leathery	Medium	Hybrid
Hass	Good	High	Black	Ovoid	7- 9 ozs.	Leathery	Small	Guatemalan
MacArthur	Fair	Medium	Green	Pyriform	14 ozs.	Med. Leathery	Med. Lg.	Guatemalan
Nabal	Good	High	Green	Round	16-32 ozs.	Smooth Thick	Medium	Guatemalan
Ryan	Good	Medium	Green	Pyriform	10-14 ozs.	Leathery	Large	Guatemalan

*No one of these varieties is recommended for all districts.
Please refer to page 14 for area adaptation and season in
the various areas.*

NOTES: Oil content designations—Low 8-12%; Medium 12-18%; High 18% or higher.
Race—Guatemalan, Thick Skin; Mexican, Thin Skin; refers to type, and not country of origin.

Varieties Recommended For Experimental Planting

Variety	Market-ability	Oil Content	Color	Shape	Weight	Skin	Seed	Race	Area Adaptation
Edranol	Good	High	Green	Pyriform	11-12 ozs.	Leathery	Small	Guat.	1-3-5
Encanada		Medium	Green	Pyriform	7-10 ozs.	Leathery	Small	Guat.	3
Hazzard		High	Green	Pyriform	12-16 ozs.	Medium	Medium	Guat.	1-5-6
				Ovoid to					
Hellen	Good	High	Green	Pyriform	12-18 ozs.	Leathery	Medium	Guat.	1-3-5-6
Irving		High	Green	Pyriform	12 ozs.	Medium	Medium	Guat.	2
MacPherson		High	Green	Pyriform	10-12 ozs.	Leathery	Small	Hybrid	

NOTES: Under "Area Adaptation" column, numbers refer to area groups on page 14.

Varieties not recommended for any specific district have not produced sufficiently for test except at location of origin.