

REPORT OF THE SUBTROPICAL FRUIT VARIETIES COMMITTEE

The committee on subtropical fruit varieties was established by the California Avocado Society in 1941 to promote interest in and increase our knowledge concerning the culture of the several subtropical and tropical fruits, aside from citrus and avocado, which can be grown in California. The committee since its inception has observed the behavior of varieties of the several fruits in various locations and has reported these observations periodically in the Yearbook of the Society. Additionally some of the more promising seedlings and selected varieties of the several fruit species have been registered in an official list maintained at the office of the secretary of the Society. The information obtained by the committee in its periodic tours of observation through the several southern counties is available to any interested persons upon inquiry either to the Secretary of the Society or any of the members of the committee. Considerable numbers of requests for information concerning the subtropical fruits, and especially concerning their environmental requirements and tolerances, have been received and answered by members of the committee.

The group has been especially helpful in directing many people to sources of propagation wood or planting materials of the lesser known and unusual varieties. Helpful advice on selection of varieties of cherimoyas, white sapotes, feijoas, African carissas and other subtropicals has been given to anyone who has asked. The committee invites such inquiries and is especially interested in learning of the location of outstanding and promising seedlings and specimens of named varieties of the various fruits in order that its knowledge may thereby be increased and that this information may be made available to others with similar interests.

The Subtropical Fruit Registry is one of the means whereby the committee is able to help make known to others on a wide basis those varieties or potentially important seedlings which are called to its attention by their owners or by others who may recognize certain merits in the particular tree or fruit, if any such potential varieties of cherimoya, macadamia, sapote and other fruits exist in dooryards unknown except to the owners of the property or to a few local people. Registration with the Society of such specimens should be made for the benefit of all concerned.

During the past year the committee has added to the Society register several varieties which have been observed to be promising in one or more characteristics. Some of these varieties have been known by some people and observed for several years, yet are practically unknown to others. The following list of varieties together with a brief description or notation concerning them has been registered recently.

FRANK carissa—This African carissa variety was selected by Dr. J. E. Coit. It sometimes is known under the name Chesley. The fruit is short elliptical in form, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches in length. The thorns are somewhat smaller and repressed, which allows the harvesting of fruit with the least difficulty.

HALL macadamia—An outstanding macadamia nut tree which produces nuts of high quality is located on the old Hall place in Santa Ana. The fruit from this variety is moderately large with a rough but relatively thin shell. It is among the best of local seedlings which have been discovered in southern California thus far. Samples of this fruit have averaged 96 nuts per pound, which have cracked out 36 per cent kernels.

SANTA ANA macadamia—The parent tree of this variety is located in the west end of Birch Park, Santa Ana. It has been observed for many years, during which the crop has been consistently good. The nut is of medium to large size with only a moderately thin shell. The eating quality is good. The nuts average about 83 per pound and crack out about 35 per cent kernels.

TROWERIDGE white sapote—The fruit is large with a distinct yellow coloration in the skin, which is somewhat more durable than skin of other varieties. It has not been observed for an extended period.

SERENA carissa—Another variety which originated in San Diego County. This fruit is somewhat longer and distinctly more pointed than the variety Frank. Both varieties bear good crops when planted in the vicinity of other seedlings. Single specimens of many carissa varieties sometimes fail to set good crops unless planted near other seedlings or varieties.

SANTA FE carob—This variety originated at Santa Fe Springs. The pod is long, up to 7 inches, and slightly curved.

NICHOLS carob—A selection from the old Nichols place near El Cajon. The pod is approximately 6 inches in length.

BOLSER carob—This is an older, rather widely known variety which has been propagated on a moderate scale. The pod is short, 5 to 6 inches, and rather plump. The tree is hermaphroditic.

MAX GOLDEN sapote—This sapote is one of the best of the so-called wooly-leaf white sapotes or Matasanos. It differs from most of the usual white sapote varieties by the fact that the leaves are very heavily pubescent. The fruit of this variety is large with few seeds (one to three) and is characterized by a distinct resinous flavor which is appealing to many people. The tree is somewhat more tender to frost than the usual white sapote. The parent tree is in Carlsbad.

COLEMAN white sapote—This variety has been known for several years. It is characterized by its relatively smaller, round-top tree with dense foliage or leaves which have distinctly undulated margins. The fruit is distinctly oblate and lobed, of moderate size and good quality. Generally it has four or five seed. The variety originated in Monrovia in 1909. It is a regular bearer, according to most observers.

WHALEY cherimoya—Among the cherimoya varieties the Whaley is considered of the better kind. The tree tends to be somewhat smaller and less vigorous than others, but the fruit is large. The fruit form is short conical with a tuberculate type of surface. The flavor is good. There is some tendency for the membrane around each seed to become somewhat heavier than in other varieties. It is mid-season to late in maturity. This variety originated in Hollywood.

BOOTH cherimoya—This variety is one of the best late season cherimoyas. The fruit is conical in form, the surface characterized by slight to moderately developed protuberances. It is a good fruit for handling and is important in commercial production. The fruit quality is very good, especially when grown in certain favorable areas such as Vista. The original tree was in Hollywood.

The macadamia nut has received considerable attention during the past few years by the committee because of the sudden development of interest in this nut by several growers and by the sudden prominence attained in the exploitation of the nut by horticultural interests in Hawaii. The California Avocado Society has sponsored a contest under the supervision of its Committee on Subtropical Fruit Varieties to promote interest in the macadamia and to locate the better seedlings which exist in California. This contest has been under the chairmanship of Col. W. W. Miller, an enthusiast and earnest worker on the committee who has made great efforts to increase our knowledge about the macadamia in California. The report on the macadamia nut contest is herewith reported by Col. Miller.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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