



DR. GEORGE A. ZENTMYER

In appreciation

George Aubrey Zentmyer, Jr., was born August 9, 1913, at North Platte, Nebraska. He was graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles with the A.B. Degree in 1935. At the University of California, Berkeley, he was awarded the M.S. Degree in 1936, and the degree of Ph. D in 1938 for his research contributions to plant pathology. He served the U.S.D.A. Division of Forest Pathology (1937-40) and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (1940-44). He came to the Citrus Experiment Station of the University of California in 1944, and has served in Plant Pathology.

At the Citrus Experiment Station, Dr. Zentmyer has been responsible for the investigation of Avocado diseases. His most challenging and difficult task is the work concerned with controlling root rot caused by the fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Dr. Zentmyer has made significant contributions to our understanding of the factors of temperature, water content, oxygen tension, and acidity (pH) in the soil which influence the onset and severity of this disastrous disease. In his explorations in California, Mexico, Central and South America, the West Indies, and Florida, he has discovered, collected, and established rootstock material which exhibits various degrees of resistance to the disease.

The disease called apoplexy or asphyxiation, he has shown to be caused by the vascular parasite *Verticillium albo-atrum*. The disease has been renamed *Verticillium*

wilt. Girdling canker of avocado seedling was found to be caused by another fungus, *Cylindrocarpon* sp. Avocado fruit rot, which is caused by *Botryosphaeria ribis* (the *Dothiorella* fungus), and which is important on coastal grown fruit, can, as a result of his laboratory and field research, now be controlled by spray applications.

Dr. Zentmyer was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1944. He has held various offices, including presidency of the Pacific Division of the American Phytopathological Society.

Dr. Zentmyer was married in 1941 to Dorothy Anne Dudley, a social worker in Illinois. Dr. and Mrs. Zentmyer have three children, daughters.

Dr. Zentmyer received the Award of Honor of the California Avocado Society in 1954.