

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1956

Continual financial support was given the avocado root rot study in Guatemala this year. \$600.00 was advanced. The directors are undecided at present whether to continue this study in Guatemala. A final decision will be made on the return of Dr. Geo. Zentmyer from his inspection trip in Guatemala.

A committee was appointed to work with the maturity committee of the Farm Bureau. A new method of determining fruit maturity is needed by the industry. The present method does not determine the eating quality of many varieties; also, we are hopeful a method may be devised whereby the grower could determine fruit maturity in the field.

Due to the encroachment of subdivision, the work of H. L. Gillespie of San Gabriel on asexual reproduction of root stock was to be lost. The Society furnished money for digging and boxing and also transporting these trees to Ventura County. They are now located on Santa Paula Ranches and will not be disturbed. This is a study that will continue for many years and we appreciate the work of Mr. Gillespie and Geo. Bowker in placing these trees where they can be checked.

In order to give the avocado industry a more complete representation on the research committee, a new member has been added from the Independent Avocado Growers & Shippers Assn. this year.

The irrigation experimental orchard at the Citrus Experiment Station, to which the California Avocado Society contributed through the purchase of the trees, is indicating some results which will be interesting to growers.

If any Society member has a project which he thinks might be of benefit to the industry, please contact a member of this committee.