

PROGRESS REPORT ON MACADAMIA

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The Macadamia project in California continues to progress. Thousands of trees have been planted in the last year, a large part of them in orchard form. It is very difficult to estimate how many acres of these trees have been set out in commercial plantings, but a figure of 50 acres total, to date, would be a fair guess. Certainly the interest in this crop has continued to grow.

The University of California has expanded its studies of this tree. Nutritional studies, seedling characteristics and propagation methods are going on at UCLA. Variety studies are being conducted at Riverside. Several acres of experimental planting are planned at the new South Coast Field Station near El Toro. The University staff has demonstrated a lively interest in Macadamias and a very helpful attitude.

Nurserymen, particularly in San Diego County, have made substantial progress in building up stocks of thrifty trees—seedlings, grafted and cutting-grown. They have also built up good stocks of scion wood from the best known Hawaiian and local clones. They have fruited out many of the Hawaiian varieties so that nut characteristics may be studied, although in a very limited way, as yet.

The California Macadamia Society shows an increasing vitality. It has maintained a sizable membership (nearly 200), has conducted two annual meetings (institutes, actually), which featured highly capable speakers and were very well attended. It has published two Yearbooks; the 1956 issue especially, which came out in April of this year, has been highly praised as to form and quality of articles. The Society has sponsored exhibits at the San Diego County Fair, which were visited by tens of thousands interested, information-seekers. The Fair exhibits feature trees, nuts, commercial cracking machine, hand crackers, propagation demonstration, etc. The Society has also made a first hand, practical study of the problems of hulling, cracking, roasting and merchandising.

Another item of wide interest and value to growers is the experimental Macadamia orchard on the property of Dr. Gordon F. Schneider in south Oceanside. This planting is set out in orchard form; is about ten years old and is now bearing substantial crops. Here the problems of irrigation, fertilization, pest control; bearing habits and variety characteristics can be studied and the *facts made available to interested growers*. The University is lending a guiding hand in this project and the facts and figures given out will be authentic.

The Macadamia can hardly be said, as yet, to have "arrived" as a commercial crop in southern California, but it certainly shows much promise and has made *marked* progress in the last few years.