

REPORT OF THE AVOCADO RESEARCH COMMITTEE

After a period of inactivity, the Avocado Research Committee met again on April 13, 1957, at the Riverside Experiment Station. The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. sharp with the staff members from the Station who are actively engaged in avocado research projects, and the members of the committee.

For your edification the committee is composed of the following: President of the California Avocado Society (Chairman), the Immediate Past-President of the Avocado Society, Secretary of the Society (also Secretary of the Committee), one permanent member each from, and to be selected by the Calavo Growers, United Avocado Growers or Independents, the Avocado Section of the California Farm Bureau Federation, and the Avocado Departments or Committees of Farm Bureau in each of the Counties having such departments or committees. If the Chairman of the California Farm Bureau Federation Avocado Section and the Chairman of the county Farm Bureau Avocado Departments or Committees are not permanent members of the Research Committee they shall be ex-officio members as well as the Board of Directors of the California Avocado Society.

From the above you can see that this is a permanent committee and a representative one. Its aims are to bring to the proper persons information as to the research needs of the avocado industry. From this standpoint the committee has indeed performed a very important function.

The Research Committee of the California Avocado Society has under active investigation the following research program: Variety Improvement Program; Diseases: Phytophthora root rot, Dothiorella fruit rot, Sun Blotch, Other diseases; Insect control-Biological control of avocado pests, Chemical control of avocado pests; Commodity treatment of avocado fruit against fruit fly infestation; Respiratory response of avocado fruits to fumigation effective against the eggs and larvae of fruit flies; Plant nematodes; Fertilization: Basic studies of mineral nutrition, Major elements, Minor elements; Irrigation; Salinity; Varieties; Rootstocks; Breeding; Pruning; Growth regulators; Effect of smog; Weed control; Biochemistry of maturation (ripening).

The summary by Dr. Al Boyce stated that the Experiment Station is working on the projects recommended by the 1956 Research Committee. Root rot is still the number one problem and the Avocado Society in conjunction with the California Farm Bureau Federation Avocado Section is raising a fund to hasten the research program being carried on by the Experiment Station to find the answer to this very serious problem.

A request has been sent out to avocado growers to contribute at least \$1.00 per acre to this fund. The results to date have been very gratifying. Many growers have contributed more than \$1.00 per acre. However if all of the growers contributed at least \$1.00 per acre there would be sufficient funds to carry on the project for at least one year.

You can readily see from the long list of projects that the Research Committee in

cooperation with the University of California is indeed making an effort to have our various problems placed under study.

It is our hope to have a similar meeting with the U.C.L.A. staff this fall. In this way all of those actively engaged in the studies of avocado problems will know which ones are deemed the most important by the growers.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the men who are doing the research work on the avocado problems. It is through their efforts that we can stay in business. I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their valuable contributions at these meetings. It is only through the efforts of everyone that we will be able to do a good job in research.

MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

George B. Bowker, Chairman

Hugh T. Walker, Vice-Chairman

Harold Browning

Loren Mead

Andrew Brydon

H. W. Montgomery

Wm. Catlin

E. S. Rowe

Frank Gilkerson

Stanley Shepard

John Gordon

Jack Shepherd

John Killifer

Ted Todd

Cecil Knowlton

Chaffee Young

Board of Directors, ex-officio

RESEARCH STATION COMMITTEE

The first avocado trees were planted at the South Coast Field Station in August, 1956. About 435 seedlings grown from seed from hand pollinated crosses from the Citrus Experiment Station were brought down by Dr. W. B. Storey and are doing well.

The start of the avocado irrigation and fertilization experiment under Drs. Richards, Embleton and Jones will be delayed a season because of the inability to get sufficient rooted Ganter cuttings for the experiment.

The Superintendent of the new station is Dean Millen, an ex-avocado and citrus grower, and I am sure that the experimental plots, as they are established, will be given excellent care.

Plans are being formulated by Dr. W. B. Storey for an experimental rootstock-scion planting at the South Coast Field Station. This year R. B. O. Bergh will plant about 300 hybrid seedlings and assume leadership of the avocado breeding project.

While tree crop experiments are notoriously slow in giving results, I am sure that all

avocado growers will be watching these experimental plots closely and hoping for early practical results.

RESEARCH STATION COMMITTEE

Hugh T. Walker, Chairman

Marvin B. Rounds

J. N. Thille

H. W. Montgomery