

## **REPORT OF THE AVOCADO VARIETY COMMITTEE**

The committee did not schedule any field trips this past year but devoted its efforts toward the registration and indexing of all standard and newer varieties and rootstock sources for the elimination of sun-blotch virus from the industry. This work is being done in conjunction with the Avocado Nurserymen's Section of the Avocado Society.

The following varieties have been indexed or are being indexed by the University of California at Riverside and at the Brokaw Nursery in Ventura, J. & W. Nursery in Corona, and the Atkins Nursery in Fallbrook:

Fuerte (3 strains), Hass (parent and 2 other selections), Bacon (parent), Zutano, MacArthur, Susan, Reed (2 sources), Jim, Al Boyce, CRC 14-11, CRC 17-51, and numerous seed sources including Cantor, Duke, Topa Topa, Guatemalan 22, and Mexicola.

Further interest has been shown in several newer varieties.

REED -- This variety is being extensively planted in San Diego County and tested generally elsewhere. Enough volume is now coming to market to see if there will be a wide consumer acceptance for this fruit during the summer at the peak of the Hass season. This variety looks like an excellent producer, but the tree is tender to frost.

SUSAN — There has been considerable interest in this patented variety in the San Joaquín valley and a considerable number of trees are being planted because it appears to bear better than most other varieties and it is early. It is too soon to tell if there will be general consumer acceptance when it is produced in volume.

CRC 14-11 -- Several thousand trees of this variety have been planted in the Corona-Temescal area in Riverside County based on the experience of about 50 test trees in several locations. (See variety description in California Avocado Society Yearbook 1963, pg. 95) This variety matures from mid-September through October. It is a vigorous, spreading type tree and appears to bear reasonably well in all locations. Only limited amounts of fruit have been marketed to date and consumer acceptance is not known. This variety showed a high degree of frost tolerance during the 1968 freeze.

CRC 17-51 — Some interest has been shown in this variety. (See variety description in the California Avocado Society yearbook 1963, pg. 97) This fruit in Corona averages around 6 ounces and the fruit is of high quality. There appears to be a tendency toward alternate bearing. Maturity in Corona is in November to early December. Further tests of this variety in other areas should be made.

Other varieties under test that look interesting are CRC 18-3, Rancho, Jim, and many selected hybrid seedlings from the University of California's South Coast Field Station at El Toro in Orange County. These include a number of hybrids of Hass, Nabal, and Thille. A number of these are being planted and tested in several locations.

—Crawford P. Teague, Chairman

## **REPORT ON 1971 ACTIVITIES OF THE NURSERYMEN'S SECTION OF THE CALIFORNIA AVOCADO SOCIETY**

The avocado section met three times this year, holding meetings in Riverside, Oxnard, and at Rancho California.

Our chief accomplishment has been the selection, testing, and growing of avocado trees that will be registered as sunblotch-free. The purpose is to develop a reservoir of sunblotch-free propagation materials that will serve as a foundation for future avocado plantings.

The particulars of the methods used to test and propagate these trees are found in another article in this year book by Dr. Merrill Wallace (see page 120.) Dr. Wallace and his staff are the developers of the procedures.

The Nurserymen's Section, together with Dr. Merrill Wallace, Bob Platt, and Stan Mather of the Nursery Service, were able to write a Registration Program and work out a procedure for the development of these trees. The trees will be distributed to member nurserymen in the spring of 1972. We expect that nurserymen will begin to distribute limited quantities of registered nursery stock for orchard planting in the spring of 1975 and that by 1977 a great many of the trees sold will be propagated from these basic materials.

A great deal of help has been required from the University of California for testing of the candidate trees. Central in the program have been Bob Drake of Dr. Wallace's staff, and John Preston and Jack Webber of the Nursery Service. Mr. Drake is our basic resource for diagnosis of sunblotch. Messrs. Preston and Webber have the responsibility of supervising the handling and identity of the materials.

We have endeavored to make the program financially self-sustaining. The Avocado Society Board has contributed \$500 toward the program. Nurserymen will donate \$.50 for each registered tree that they plant.

So far, nurserymen have started about 8,000 trees. Among the candidate varieties are Hass, Fuerte, Bacon, Zutano, Topa, Duke, and selected rootstock clones showing resistance to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Over twenty varieties altogether are being tested and grown.

On behalf of the Section, I wish to thank the above-mentioned persons for their help in making this program possible. As far as I know, it is the only program of its type in the world which applies to avocados, and like the Cinnamomi program before it, was the product of this kind of effort coupled with the help of fine, cooperative-minded nurserymen.

Respectfully submitted,

*W. H. Brokaw*