

California Avocado Society 1981 Yearbook 65: 31-32

California Avocado Society Variety Plot South Coast Field Station, Tustin, California

Oliver H. Atkins, Chairman
CAS Variety Committee

We are happy to report our new variety plot is finally becoming a reality. After several meetings and negotiations during the past year between President Mike Shore, CAS Directors, and Variety Committee members and Dr. C. W. Coggins, Jr., Chairman of the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences of the University of California at Riverside, and U.C.R. staff members, the following arrangement was put together, as it was not possible for the California Avocado Society to enter into a direct contract with the university. To make it acceptable and of future value to the university, it creates what will be called a germ plasm repository supported by a yearly gift from the California Avocado Society.

The following terms have been agreed to: Dr. B. O. Bergh will act as project leader, with three CAS members and two additional from the University. Currently, Oliver Atkins, Gene Mehlschau, and Robert G. Platt from the Society, Dr. Randolph Keim, Superintendent of the South Coast Field Station, Bob Platt's successor at UCR Agricultural Extension Service, when appointed, and Dr. Bergh will comprise the six-man team.

Field #44 comprising 4.13 acres has been set aside. It will accommodate 29 rows, 310 feet long and 20 feet apart, or 15 trees per row for an estimated total of 435 trees. The annual charge will be \$750.00 per planted acre and \$100.00 per unplanted acre. The first billing will be for the fiscal year July 1, 1981 through June 30, 1982, based on the number of acres and parts of an acre actually planted.

Each fiscal year, there will be an annual adjustment to the above based upon changes in salaries and material costs. We will be given an opportunity to discuss these changes.

The duration of the project will be indefinite because of the continuing occurrence of new avocado varieties. The project will be completely reevaluated each five years.

Previously, field #44 was irrigated by a gravity system with furrows. It is now being converted to a pressure system, so we can use drip or micro sprinklers. We have an offer of a fertilizer injector and filter from Bennett Irrigation Company, hi Riverside.

All candidate trees planted must have been raised hi seed bags using a sterile medium. At this time, we have selected scion wood from the most promising of Dr. Bergh's best cultivars. These are being raised in greenhouses of CAS nurserymen. Tentatively, we have agreed to plant as follows: rootstock varieties, two trees each; present standard varieties, two trees each; Dr. Bergh's selections, four trees each; and private selections

of the best CAS registered varieties and others as they become available, four trees each. All of these, where possible, will be grafted on Duke 7 registered clonal rootstocks to make a fair uniform evaluation as they grow. Several rows will also be planted of Duke 7 clonal rootstocks for future grafting of new varieties.

The three CAS members of the South Coast Field Station Variety Committee will report on the progress at each monthly Board of Directors meeting. These three committee positions will be filled by appointment each year by the incoming CAS president.

All of us concerned feel we have laid the basic plans and mechanics for a workable and useful variety plot for the California avocado industry and a mutually useful research program and repository for the University of California researchers.

Respectfully,

Oliver H. Atkins, Chairman
CAS Variety Committee