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EIGHT PREDICTIONS

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1. 'Lamb/Hass' will soon be commercially accepted and requested by avocado handlers as "late-season" 'Hass'. (I have never eaten a rancid tasting 'Lamb/Hass', whereas 'Hass' is generally "over" for me by July.)
2. Tree training will become more widely used, especially the central—leader.
3. High-density plantings will be shown to be commercially viable and more profitable than traditional spacing.
4. Seedling rootstocks will make their way back into the nurseries and fields, particularly those of the Guatemalan race and its hybrids that are well adapted to our growing regions and are more salt resistant than existing Mexican race rootstocks.
5. Root rot will become less and less of a problem as the very sensitive 'Topa Topa' seedling rootstocks that were planted in the tens of thousands many years ago are replaced or abandoned. Additionally, a combination package including pruning, water reduction, and organic mulches (maybe new biologicals?) should relieve most major damage.
6. Pollen-donor varieties (B-flower) like 'BL667' (Nobel) and 'BL516' (Marvel) will be shown to be valuable as production enhancers for 'Hass' and 'Lamb/Hass'.
7. New "Hass-like" varieties will prove equally as promising as 'Lamb/Hass'. 'Harvest' is a "Hass-look-alike" that also has superior postharvest qualities compared to 'Hass'. Additionally, production exceeds that of 'Hass'. (Handlers, you should be requesting more of this fruit.) Others, like 'GEM', are excellent quality avocados that most consumers would prefer to 'Hass'. For growers, it is a healthy, vigorous, productive tree.
8. Avocado production in California has at least 15 more good years, and is more likely to succumb to urban pressures than to foreign intrusion.