

## REPORT OF THE SUB-TROPICAL FRUIT COMMITTEE

**Francis B. Lincoln**

*Chairman, Homestead*

Your Variety Committee has registered eight seedling avocados this year, four of them coming from Dade County and the others from the vicinity of Sebring.

The Biscayne was submitted for registration by the USDA Plant Introduction Garden of Coconut Grove. This is a seedling of unknown parentage which originated at that Station from a seed planted in 1928. It is a fruit of the West Indian type ripening between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15, light green in color of good quality. The surface of this fruit is distinctly ribbed. Its season is before the Waldin and its fruit is larger in size. The conformation of the fruit is shown in Figure 1. The tree is vigorous and not excessively upright in growth. A few trees of this variety have been propagated and recently distributed.

Four seedlings were submitted to your committee by P. L. Vinson of Sebring. They are of unknown parentage. Three were originated in his grove and the fourth in a neighbor's. One named Ploravo, shown in Figure 2, ripens from Oct. 15 to Dec. 15. The tree is large, about 18 years old, resistant to cold, producing an average crop every year. The fruit is medium small, of good quality, but may be susceptible to anthracnose, as evidenced by the fruits submitted.

The seedling named Ridge, ripening through January and February, is a fruit of medium size shown in Figure 3. Its flesh and flavor are of good quality. The tree is large, vigorous, hardy, about 18 years old, with no record of its cropping ability.

A purple fruited seedling named Vinson is a small fruit ripening in February and March, shown in Figure 4. The tree is vigorous, about 18 years old, bearing a good crop each year. Mr. Vinson considers this fruit to have much promise.

The fourth seedling submitted by him, named Late, has a fruit identical to Booth 1 • in size, shape, season, and size of seed, which germinates within the fruit. It originated as a seedling in the yard of F. M. Young, a neighbor. W. F. Ward, a committee member, has known of this tree for many years, which he states came into being before Booth 1 was known. Mr. Vinson has 15 trees of this seedling.

Joseph W. Irwin of Princeton submitted a seedling to be called Irwin which is a small fruit maturing in March, shown in Figure 5. The parentage of this seedling is not known. The tree is about 10 years old and yielded five bushels of fruit last year.

A seedling to be called Marshall was submitted by Charles J. Blair from his young grove near Goulds. The tree is about five years old and is likely an unbudded root stock, which appears very much like the surrounding Booth 7 and 8 trees. This fruit which ripens in February and March is shown in Figure 6. The rind of this fruit is very thick but pliable enough to allow the determination of the flesh. The seed is surprisingly small, with the

surrounding flesh of good quality. The rind or portions of it turned black, on the specimens submitted, as the flesh softened.

Albina is the name of a seedling submitted by The P. and C. Grove in Perrine. There are about a dozen trees of this seedling in the grove which were propagated by a previous owner. Nothing is known of its parentage. These trees, which are 15 years or more old, have fruited quite well. The fruit, shown in Figure 7, ripens in November and is of good quality. The name appearing in the picture is one the chairman used to identify the fruit before it was named. The seed of this fruit is rather large.

There are a few interesting items about new avocados your committee desires to bring to your attention. There is a variety called Areu, of good quality, at the USDA Plant Introduction Garden, which starts blossoming in November and fruit from this bloom is ripe in early April. The variety was obtained from the Society Islands and the record shows that it arrived there from Egypt. More will be known in a few years about the possibility of this variety, for in one grove several trees have been top worked to it. The Brooks and Tower Nursery expect to propagate this season, a thousand trees of this variety. In Puerto Rico is a variety, Gripinas 13, which behaves in a similar manner— blooming in November and maturing its fruit the following March and April.

There is a seedling which may be termed Brodgen in the grove of T. W. Brodgen of Winter Haven which has recently caused much attention through a newspaper account of a young seedling tree of it being able to survive in North Carolina. Dr. Geo. D. Ruehle knew, of this tree and its fruit when he lived in Winter Haven many years ago. It is a very hardy tree with a dark purple fruit which, in Homestead, may be good eating before any of the early season commercial sorts.

The Sub-Tropical Experiment Station has obtained from Dr. Wilson Popeno, scions of the many seedlings selected by the California Avocado Society at Atlixco, Mexico in 1947 and 1948. At Homestead are growing one and two year old trees of these selections. They are mostly Mexican x Guatemalan hybrids that might prove useful in the parts of Florida where cold hardy trees are required.

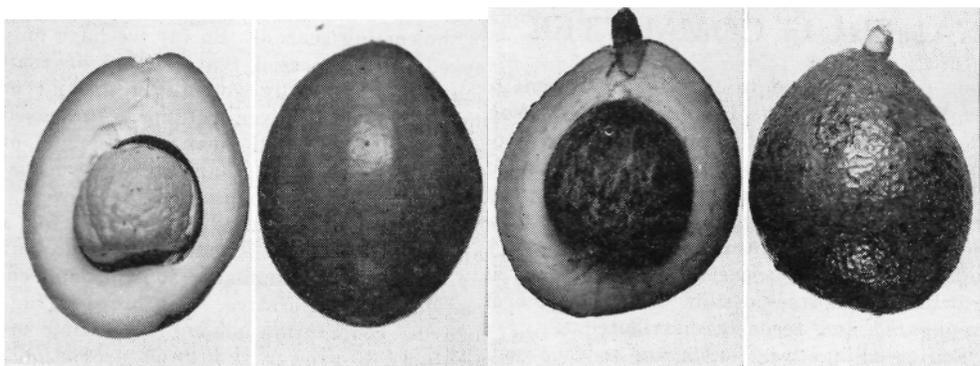


FIG. 1. Biscayne Avocado.

FIG. 2. Floravo Avocado.

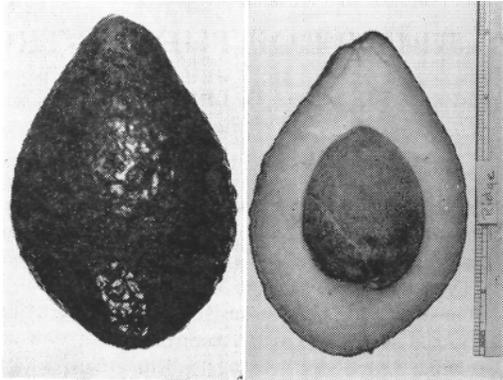


FIG. 3. Ridge Avocado.

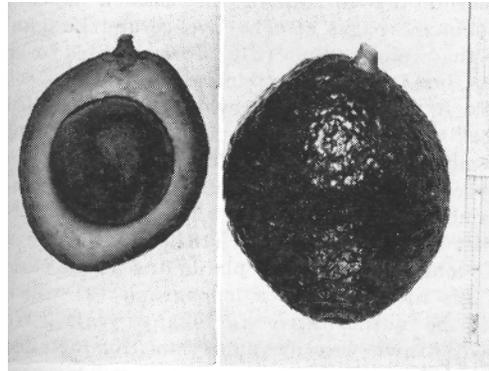


FIG. 4. Vinson Avocado.

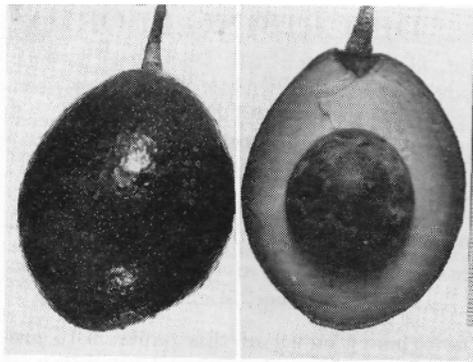


FIG. 5. Irwin Avocado.

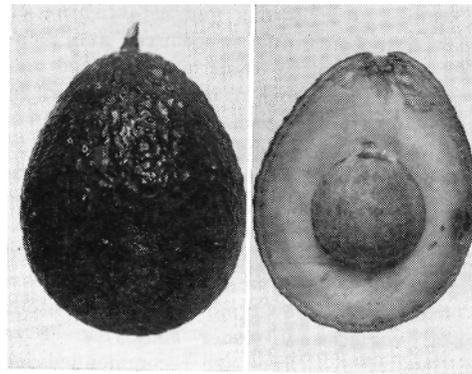


FIG. 6. Marshall Avocado.

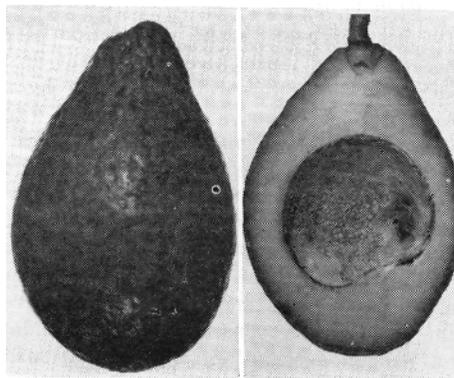


FIG. 7. Albina Avocado.

Your chairman had a visit from Alvaro Iznaga, M.D. of Santa Clara, Cuba, who is an avocado fancier and grower in that country. He has our Pollock variety in his grove and knows of no local fruit that is earlier in ripening than it.

An early ripening avocado has come to the attention of your committee, in the grove of S. C. Essig, formerly owned by Mrs. M. R. Pond near Princeton. It is as early as the Pollock with about half the size. Mrs. Pond obtained scions of this seedling some years ago from Bronson Bayliss' grove. Several trees have been top worked recently to this seedling in the Essig grove so in a few years more will be known of its behavior.

Your committee is particularly interested in locating seedlings which will extend the producing season of avocados and will extend the region in Florida which can produce avocados. The discovery of an avocado which will stand wet feet would be a real accomplishment.