

## REPORT OF THE AVOCADO VARIETY COMMITTEE

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*Acting Secretary, Homestead*

The Avocado Variety Committee has not been very active during the past two years and consequently the acting secretary has very little to report. This is due in part to the fact that the Chairman and the Secretary of the original committee have not been active because of illness, and in part to the occurrence of the devastating hurricane which swept over the Redland district last September. The latter has prevented the obtaining of data on some of the recently registered varieties which would have matured fruit on the trees at the Experiment Station last winter if the hurricane had not occurred.

During the past year only one seedling was registered and a certificate issued to the owner of the original tree.

*Kalusa*. Probably W. I. x Guat. (Flower behavior not recorded). Season July. The Kalusa produces a pyriform fruit of medium size, with a smooth dark green skin, a moderately large seed, and golden yellow flesh of very good quality. It originated on the grove of F. A. Kalusa near Homestead as a seedling planted about 1930. Its bearing behavior is unknown prior to 1944. In that year it produced 8 bushels and in 1945 about 6 1/2 bushels of fruit, according to the owner. While it has not been observed long enough to ascertain its true value, the Kalusa appears to merit continued trial since it is an early maturing fruit possessing the desirable size, appearance and quality for a commercial avocado.

Two additional owners of seedlings have expressed their intention of registering them, but owing to the fact that no fruit was available for examination by the Committee this year as a result of the hurricane, these will not be registered until later. One of these varieties is being propagated and a good many trees have already been sold and planted. This is the Vanell Late, propagated and sold by the All Good Nursery of North Miami, Florida. This avocado is described by the owner as very late, holding until June, with a fruit medium in size with a small seed and good quality. It may be all that is claimed for it, but it has not been seen by the Committee. The All Good Nursery recently donated three trees to the Experiment Station for a test planting for observation, but it will require a number of years before the merits of this variety can be ascertained.