

43932 to 43935—Continued.

43935. "(Nos. 77, 97, 157, 189. Avocado No. 11.) *Chisoy*. As a commercial variety this avocado seems to be particularly promising. In form and size it is almost identical with the *Trapp* avocado of Florida, but it has a smaller seed. The quality is excellent, and the tree has borne two heavy crops in succession, which indicates that it will probably be as satisfactory in this respect as any in the set. Taken all around, No. 11 seems to be one of the best of all.

"The parent tree is growing in the cafetal (coffee plantation) of Señor Don Eusebio de la Cruz, in the town of San Cristobal Vera Paz. The elevation is 4,550 feet. Señor de la Cruz is the alcalde or mayor of San Cristobal and owns coffee plantations containing many aguacate trees, but he always reserves the fruits of this particular one for his private consumption and to present to his friends. Beneath the broad-spreading branches of this tree are numerous large coffee bushes, which benefit by the shade cast by the avocado. The soil is a heavy, blackish, clay loam of excellent fertility. No one knows the exact age of the tree; it is very large and probably very old. Fifty years can probably be set as the minimum. It is fully 50 feet high, with a broad-spreading, much-branched crown which is 60 feet in diameter. The trunk of the tree is 4 feet thick at the base. It branches about 12 feet above the ground. The growth seems to be quite vigorous, though the young branchlets are not so long as they would be if the tree were much younger. The wood is no more brittle than the average, and the branchlets are well formed and stout. The bud wood furnished by this tree is good; owing to the age of the tree the twigs are not so long as would be desired for most convenient handling, but the eyes are well formed and show no tendency to drop at an early stage.

"The hardiness of the variety can not be ascertained, since there is no frost at San Cristobal. Until subjected to cold weather in the United States it can only be assumed that the variety is of an average hardiness for the Guatemalan race.

"The flowering season is slightly later than the average, the tree being in full bloom on April 1, 1917. The crop produced from the 1916 bloom was very large. No count could be obtained, but it may be said that the bearing habit of the tree, as indicated by the 1916 and 1917 crops, seems highly satisfactory. In spite of the heavy crop from the 1916 bloom, the 1917 bloom was an equally heavy one, which is being carried to maturity. The fruits can be picked in February, but they are probably not really at their best until the first of March. The season is therefore a month or more later than the average. If allowed to remain on the tree, many of the fruits will hang on until April or perhaps even later.

"The fruit is handsome, and its quality does not belie its looks. It is as large as a good grapefruit (20 to 24 ounces), with a slightly rough skin of yellowish green color, somewhat thicker than the average, so that the fruit is bruised with difficulty. The flesh is of deep yellow color, firm and rather dry in texture, entirely free from discoloration of any sort, and of the richest possible flavor. No better avocado, in point of flavor, has been found in all Guatemala. The seed, in large specimens of the variety, is comparatively small, while in smaller specimens it appears to be a trifle large; the seed appears to develop to more or less the same size in every case, independent of