

44625 to 44628—Continued.

thick at the base, giving off its first branch 18 feet from the ground. The crown is not very broad, but open and sparsely branched, some of the limbs showing a tendency to droop. The age of the tree is not definitely known, but it is probably 15 to 20 years. The character of bud wood produced by the tree is fairly satisfactory; the growths are short, but the buds are well formed and show no tendency to drop.

"Lacking a definite test in the United States, it must be assumed that the variety is about average in hardiness. The climate of Antigua is not sufficiently cold to demonstrate the hardiness of a variety.

"The flowering season is February and March. The fruit ripens rather early for this region, the first ones commencing to drop in February, while a few hang on until April or May. The season may be called January to April. This rather early season of ripening is of especial importance to California, and the variety should be given a careful trial in that State. The productiveness of the variety is satisfactory. The crop which ripened in the spring of 1917 was good, but few fruits were set from the blooms of 1917. This is nothing unusual, since the Guatemalan race of avocado does not as a rule bear heavily every year.

"The fruit is broadly obovoid, 1 pound in weight, round and yellowish green on the surface, with a skin almost as thick as a coconut shell, but easily cut. The flesh is almost as yellow as butter, clean and free from discoloration, and of very rich flavor, while the seed is comparatively small and tight in the cavity. The variety has every appearance of being an excellent one.

"The fruit may be formally described as follows: Form obovoid, slightly oblique at the apex; size above medium to large, weight 15 to 18 ounces, length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, greatest breadth $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; base rounded or obscurely pointed; stem stout, 4 inches long, inserted obliquely without depression; apex obliquely flattened, depressed around the stigmatic point; surface heavily pebbled to rough, green to yellowish green in color, with numerous small, rounded, yellowish dots; skin thick, about one-eighth of an inch throughout, not thicker toward the apex than near the base, as in many avocados, woody, very brittle; flesh firm, smooth, rich yellow in color, tinged with green near the skin, fiber or discoloration entirely lacking, the flavor very rich and pleasant; quality excellent; seed medium sized or rather small, roundish conic in form, weighing 2 ounces, tight in the cavity, with both seed coats adhering closely." (*Popenoe*.)

For an illustration of the Panchoy avocado, see *Platé V*.

See also *Exploring Guatemala for Desirable New Avocados*, Annual Report of the California Avocado Association, 1917, p. 127, fig. 23; reprint, 1918, p. 25, fig. 23; and *The Avocado in Guatemala*, U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 743, p. 54, pl. 17.

44626. "(Nos. 112, 119, 141. Avocado No. 21.) *Benik*. This is a very handsome fruit of fine quality. When cut in halves the contrast of its purplish maroon skin with its rich yellow flesh is very attractive, the purple of the skin intensifying the yellow of the flesh. The tree is a good bearer, and the variety seems well worthy of a trial in the United States.

"The parent tree is growing in the finca La Polvora in Antigua, Guatemala. It has recently been girdled, with the intention of killing