

44625 to 44628—Continued.

flesh is of excellent appearance and flavor. The seed is medium sized. Taken all around, this seems a very promising variety, especially for Florida, where many of the Guatemalan avocados do not bear heavily.

"The parent tree is growing in the finca La Polvora in Antigua, Guatemala. The altitude is approximately 5,100 feet. On all sides of the tree, and crowding it somewhat, are large coffee bushes. The soil is a rich, sandy loam of volcanic origin, deep and friable. The tree is probably 6 or 7 years old. It is 20 feet in height, very slender in habit, the trunk 6 inches through at the base, branching at 8 feet from the ground. The crown is slender, sparsely branched, with very little fruiting wood. Its growth seems to be reasonably vigorous, the young branchlets being stout, though very short. The wood is rather brittle. The bud wood furnished by this tree is rather poor, owing to the shortness of the growths and the fact that the buds are too closely crowded together. The eyes, however, are well formed and show no tendency to drop and leave a blind bud. It may be found that the tree will require training when young to keep it stocky and of good form.

"The hardiness of the variety can not be ascertained at present, since the climate of Antigua is not cold. It may be assumed, until a test is made in the United States, that it is about as hardy as the average of the Guatemalan race.

"The tree did not flower in 1917, owing, quite likely, to the heavy crop which it ripened from the 1916 blooms. Probably under better cultural conditions and by thinning heavy crops greater regularity in bearing can be induced; in Guatemala, where no cultural attention is given to the trees, it is common for them to bear very heavily one season and fail to bear the next. Judging by the appearance of the spring flush of growth, which always accompanies the flowers, the variety will flower here in March. The fruits ripen from March to May. Although the tree has very little fruiting wood, it produced 125 fruits in 1917, which can be considered a very heavy crop. Several of the branches, in fact, were broken by the weight of the fruits they were carrying.

"The form of the fruit, as already mentioned, is practically the same as that of the *Trapp*—oblate or roundish oblate. The average weight is 12 to 16 ounces, but it may be expected that the weight of this and all other varieties in the collection will be slightly greater under good culture in the United States than it is in Guatemala, where the trees receive no attention. The skin is rather thin and smooth on the surface. The color is a deep purple, almost black. Unlike most Guatemalan avocados, the surface possesses a decided glossiness. The flesh is rich yellow in color, free from discoloration or fiber, and of very rich flavor. The seed varies from small to slightly large. In this connection it may be noted that the seeds of round or oblate avocados frequently are found to vary considerably in size, even among the fruits of a single tree. In this particular variety the average is not large, but occasional fruits were found in which the seed was a trifle too large. In others it is comparatively small. It is always tight in the cavity.

"The following is a formal description of the fruit: Form roundish oblate or oblate; size medium to above medium; weight 12 to 15 ounces, length $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; greatest breadth $3\frac{3}{8}$ to $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches; base rounded,