

44679 to 44681—Continued.

ment of Baja Vera Paz, Guatemala. The altitude of this town is approximately 5,150 feet. The soil is a heavy clay loam, black, very fertile, and retentive of moisture. The tree stands at the rear of a small garden, close to a hedge of chichicaste (*Loasa speciosa*). It is slender, apparently not more than 15 to 20 years old, about 40 feet high, with a trunk 1 foot thick at the base. The crown is slender, but well branched, with an abundance of fruiting wood. The young growths are quite vigorous and shapely, indicating that the variety will probably be a good grower. The bud wood from the parent tree is satisfactory, the branchlets being of good length, round, smooth, with the eyes well placed, strong, and not inclined to fall early. If the young trees show a tendency to grow tall and slender, they can easily be kept in hand by judicious pruning.

"The climate of Purula is colder than that of Antigua, though the altitude is about the same. It is not sufficiently cold, however, to test the hardiness of avocados of the Guatemalan race. It must be assumed that this variety is of average hardiness until it can be put to a test in the United States.

"The flowering season of the parent tree is in March and early April. It blooms profusely and sets a heavy crop of fruit. The crop produced in 1917 from the 1916 blooms was very heavy, and another equally heavy crop was set from the 1917 blooms. The productiveness of the variety gives promise of being well above the average. The ripening season commences about the middle of March and extends to the first of July. It can probably be considered midseason or slightly later than midseason.

"The fruits are of attractive round form, nearly a pound in weight, with a slightly rough surface of purple color. The skin is much thicker than the average, but not very brittle. The flesh is rich yellow in color, absolutely free from discoloration of any sort, dry and oily, cutting like soft cheese. The flavor is exceptionally rich and nutty. The seed is rather small and is tight in the cavity. The size of the fruit conforms admirably to hotel and restaurant requirements, where it is desired to serve a half fruit as a portion, and the quality is so unusually good that it would seem that this variety is of exceptional promise.

"Following is a formal description of the fruit: From spherical to roundish obovoid, sometimes slightly oblique; size medium to above medium, weight 13 to 16 ounces, length $3\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 inches, greatest breadth $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; base rounded or obscurely pointed, the stem rather slender, 7 inches long, inserted obliquely, without depression; apex rounded or slightly flattened obliquely; surface decidedly rough, greenish purple to dull purple in color, with numerous large greenish yellow dots; skin very thick, varying from as much as three-sixteenths of an inch near the stem, where it is thickest, to somewhat more than one-sixteenth of an inch near the apex, coarsely granular in texture, woody, but separating readily from the flesh at the right stage of ripeness; flesh rich cream yellow in color, without fiber discoloration, firm, meaty, of rich and pleasant flavor; quality excellent; seed oblate-spherical to spherical in form, medium sized, weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ounces, tight in the cavity, with both seed coats adhering closely to the smooth cotyledons." (*Popenoe.*)