

44679 to 44681—Continued.

thick at the base, branching about 10 feet from the ground. The crown is broad and spreading, but sparsely branched. To judge from the size of the tree it must be at least 30 or 40 years old. It seems to be a vigorous grower, the branchlets being stout, well formed, and of good length. The bud wood furnished by this tree is quite satisfactory, having well-developed eyes which do not show a tendency to drop and leave a blind bud. The tree is uncared for and has much dead wood in it.

"While Purula is scarcely higher than Antigua, it has a colder climate. It is not, however, sufficiently cold to test the hardness of avocado trees of the Guatemalan race.

"The tree has not been seen in bloom, but probably flowers about February. In good seasons it carries an enormous crop of fruit. This would be expected of a small-fruited variety. The first fruits turn color about the first of December and can then be picked. The height of the season, however, is not until February, at which time the fruits are fully mature. If allowed to remain on the tree, many of them hang until April or May.

"The fruit is pear shaped or obovoid, small, weighing not over 6 ounces (it will probably weigh more when grown under cultivation in California and Florida), somewhat rough on the surface, and maroon colored. The skin is thick and woody. The flesh is yellow, sometimes slightly discolored with fiber streaks, but with no objectionable fiber. The flavor is rich and pleasant. The seed is medium sized in comparison with the size of the fruit. In comparison with the seeds of most other 6-ounce fruits it would be called small.

"The variety may be formally described as follows: Form broadly obovoid to pyriform; size small, weight 5 to 6 ounces, length $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, greatest breadth $2\frac{3}{8}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; base tapering, the moderately stout stem, which is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, being inserted slightly obliquely without depression; apex rounded or almost imperceptibly flattened; surface rough, deep dull purple-maroon or purple in color, with rather few small russet dots; skin thick, one-sixteenth of an inch at base, nearly one-eighth of an inch toward the apex of the fruit, coarsely granular and woody in texture; flesh rich cream yellow, changing to pale green near the skin, sometimes marked with fiber traces but without any tough fibers, melting and buttery in texture, of very rich and agreeable flavor; quality very good; seed roundish oblate, small to medium in size, weighing less than 1 ounce, tight in the seed cavity, with both seed coats adhering closely." (*Popenoe.*)

See also Exploring Guatemala for Desirable New Avocados, Annual Report of the California Avocado Association, 1917, p. 130, fig. 26; reprint, 1918, p. 25, fig. 26; and The Avocado in Guatemala, U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 743, p. 58, pl. 19.

44680. "(Nos. 99, 159, 178. Avocado No. 23.) *Mayapan.* This variety possesses several excellent commercial characteristics—round form, desirable size (nearly 1 pound), attractive purple color, thick, firm skin, and flesh of excellent quality. In this latter respect it is one of the very best varieties in the collection. The seed is not large and the tree is very productive. It seems a very promising avocado.

"The parent tree is growing in a sitio owned by Arcadio Saguirre, but now occupied by Eusebio Guzman, in the town of Purula, Depart-