

eties are being discovered and the areas are being delimited in which the environmental conditions favor or induce a type of flower behavior that is most favorable to self-fruiting.

It is without doubt advisable (1) to interplant avocados on the basis of their flower behavior, (2) to supply bees in abundance to effect pollinations, (3) to make special experimental tests of various types of interplanting with different combinations of the most promising varieties, (4) to make definite studies of existing commercial orchards regarding the yields of each tree and the disposition of the different varieties, and (5) to continue careful studies of normal and abnormal flower behavior, of the means of pollination, and of the processes of fertilization.

The combined results of such efforts should rather quickly and definitely reveal what, if any, varieties are self-fruitful and under what conditions and to what type of flower behavior and pollination they thus operate. The results thus obtained should also reveal to what extent varieties require cross-pollination and what particular combinations of these are most favorable to fruit setting. Perhaps it is not too much to hope that in time a group of ideal avocados may be discovered or developed by selective breeding which among other desirable qualities are fully self-fruitful. That such varieties are not now in existence among the varieties commonly cultivated is evident. Until such varieties are definitely known it is a safe and wise plan to interplant on the basis of flower-behavior and with due consideration of other qualities and cultural requirements.

There appear to be few legitimate objections to the interplanting of avocados. In making interplantings along the lines that now seem most promising the grower has nothing to lose and there is the chance that he will profit by increased production.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This bulletin is a report chiefly of the investigations which the writer made in Florida in 1925 and 1932, but to some degree the conclusions and the data involve the earlier studies in California during 1923.

The investigations in 1925 were made under the auspices and with the financial support of The New York Botanical Garden and the Farm Bureau of Dade County, Florida. During most of that period of work E. M. Savage of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. D. A., participated in the investigations as did also T. Ralph Robinson for a part of the time. Valued assistance and coopera-