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# KNIGHT'S AVOCADO NURSERY

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# 1928

# *Knight's Avocado Nursery*

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TO AVOCADO PLANTERS:—

Avocado Nursery Stock is generally divided into three classes (depending on the character of the trees), though it is not always sold as such. There is the tree with the bud slender, very tall and out of proportion to the root stock. This is caused by either budding onto old root stock or by feeding the tree strong doses of chemical fertilizer. Many of these trees die when planted.

Then, there is the tree that is very short, bud thick at the union and tapering quickly to the top. Various reasons account for this class of tree. One is that it may naturally be a runt, which is generally the case, or the union may be defective. Another is that poor root stock or lack of knowledge will produce a poor tree. Still another is that the soil and climate where the tree is grown are such that it is impossible to grow a good tree. Trees of this class are short-lived, though they may live several years before having to be replaced.

The other class is that composed of trees with the proper proportion in size between bud and root, straight, upright, neither a vine nor stunted. This is the only tree worth planting. Such a tree denotes a good union on a root that is congenial to the bud.

Mexican seed varies greatly, only part of it being good for rootstock. In fact, there is more difference in rootstock than there is in bud selection. Years of experience have caused me to select with care the trees from which I secure my seed. I have used seed from these trees over a period of several years, and am now using seed from no others.

# *Knight's Avocado Nursery*

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## *Directions for Planting and Care of Young Avocado Trees*

Plough, cultivate and give a limited amount of leveling. Do not scrape off all the good soil from certain parts and ever afterwards have poor spots in your orchard. Limited terracing on hillside may be necessary but never cut so deep that all the good soil is on the lower side of the tree.

Never lift tree by taking hold of the trunk.

Keep tree in shade until planted.

Plant only when you have everything ready on the ground.

One hundred trees per acre is best.

On sidehill plant on contour.

Make a basin 5 feet in diameter by 5 inches deep.

Dig hole in center. 18 inches diameter by 16 deep.

Plant tree one inch deeper than dirt in ball.

Turn ball until tree is straight.

In light soil settle earth with water.

In heavy soil tamp loose earth before adding water.

Be sure that water reaches center of ball.

Shade as soon as planted.

Place a stake 5 feet by 1x2 inches. 13" to east, west and 14 south.

This will take a cut-open grain sack.

Nail to stake so that sack pulls around stake not from nail.

Drive stakes until bottom of sack is 12" from bottom of basin.

When tree is planted and shaded, fill basin with mulch.

Beanstraw or alfalfa are best, most any vegetable matter will do.

Never use manure first year. It may kill your tree.

Ten days after planting remove mulch and puddle crack where loose and solid earth come together. Replace mulch.

Thereafter only irrigate, when on grasping a handful of earth from under mulch, the ridge formed under the points of the fingers shows signs of crumbling.

Tie trunk of tree to shade stakes, not tight, let it weave.

Rootstock is more important than bud-selection.

Most nurserymen recognize poor rootstock before tree is sold, buyers often do not.

Certain rootstock may be good for one variety and not for another.

Buy first class trees, plant in a good location, give proper care.

# *Knight's Avocado Nursery*

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## *Care of an Avocado Orchard After First Year*

Ninety per cent of trees should not need shade.

The bark of avocado trees, both trunk and branch, should be whitewashed whenever exposed to the direct rays of the sun.

Never place a stake next to the trunk of the tree.

Stake against prevailing winds but allow tree to sway.

Enlarge basin 12" in diameter each year.

Maintain mulch as long as you grow avocados.

Use stable manure as mulch, increasing quantity each year.

Trees that have not made required growth should be treated as younger trees.

Never cultivate under tree, optional between rows.

Effect of chemical fertilizer on avocados is little understood.

Irrigation of avocados is the most important factor in fruit production and together with proper fertilization will make a good producing orchard of any variety.

Nearly all avocado orchards receive too much water.

The avocado is inclined to grow too large and go too much to wood instead of fruit.

After two years of wood growth less water should be used.

Just enough water to keep the tree healthy, even moisture with less amount in the fall.

Fertilization, without too much wood growth, produces fruit.

Orchards given the right kind of care should produce a commercial crop the third year.

As the avocado is better understood, orchards on heavy soil will receive but two or three irrigations per year and after eight or ten years perhaps none at all. On lighter soils more water will be required.

It is cheaper to irrigate for the first three years by the basin system, overhead irrigation where practical is best once the basin system is discarded.

A little water through overhead irrigation during hot dry winds protects both tree and fruit.

These directions are for good trees planted in good soil and location.

## *Knight's Avocado Nursery*

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In my nursery I have always made it a practice to use only the best seed obtainable, and buds only from proven fruiting trees of sufficient age to guarantee permanency of fruiting qualities. I lived for thirty years in Mexico, Central and South America, the true home of the Avocado, and for fourteen years in California where I have given my entire attention to the propagation of the Avocado. The trees which I grow are the product of years of experience and constant experimentation; the best that I know how to produce.

Certain varieties appear to do better in some localities than in others. I do not think this is as yet a proven fact, but the possibility that it may be true should not be entirely overlooked by the prospective planters.

Many planters think that they have paid too much for nursery stock. I do not think they have. Too often the nurseryman has had all his profits tied up in varieties that became obsolete after being budded. This fact has done a great deal of harm. It has hurt the nurseryman too square to recommend what he would not plant himself, and it has hurt the man who did plant what the nurseryman would not have planted.

Trees are often damaged through improper handling and hauling after they leave the nursery. In order to do away with this source of possible loss to the planter, I am prepared to deliver my trees by truck in charge of a competent driver and will guarantee delivery in first class condition. Delivery to be made on place of buyer providing roads will permit without unloading. Any hauling on land of buyer to be extra and arrangements for such must be made with driver, to whom the extra charge should be paid.

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My trees are free from pests, and will not need to be fumigated, but the law requires that all nursery stock, of all kinds, must be inspected by the local inspector at its destination. As delivery is guaranteed, trees arriving in poor condition should be returned via the truck. No replacement will be made at a later date.

The trucks used haul from 160 to 165 of the smaller trees and 100 of the larger ones. Prices are for truck-load lots. When smaller number is taken an extra charge will be made to cover use of truck. No delivery for less than 100 trees.

Trees nine months to one year, 30 in. up.....\$2.30 each

Trees one year to 18 months, 3 to 5 feet.....\$2.50 each

Orders less than 100 at nursery

Trees nine months to one year, 10 to 99.....\$2.25 each

Same, 1 to 9.....\$2.50 each

Trees, one year to 18 months, 10 to 99.....\$2.50 each

Same, 1 to 9.....\$2.75 each

Prices for first class trees only. Delivery anywhere from Santa Barbara to San Diego Counties, inclusive.

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## **E. E. KNIGHT**

( E. E. KNIGHT & SON )

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