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The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.



PAR AVION
AIR MAIL
CORREO AEREO



AEROGRAMME

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
GUATEMALA

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Mr ~~Wm~~ DAWES
70 Houtana St.
ROVER HUTT
NEW ZEALAND



Approved For Posting in N.Z.
New Zealand Post Office Authority No. 17

If anything is enclosed, this form will be surcharged
at rate for Air Mail Letters.

70 Hautana St.
LOWER HUTT
NEW ZEALAND
6/9/67

Dear Sir

I am endeavouring to obtain seed of the green sapote Calocarpum vivide and have been advised by E. Comacho of Centro d Enseñanza e Investigación, Turrialba, Costa Rica to write to you. Any information on the green sapote cultural requirements would be helpful, especially the level of fertility it requires and its response to fertilizers. If you are able to supply seed of this plant I will be pleased to repay the cost of postage.

I am interested in introducing new fruiting plants into New Zealand and think the green sapote may be successful here.

A few evergreen fruiting plants of American origin are already grown commercially here e.g. tree tomato, feijoa, avocado & passion fruit, and there must be a number of others we could grow.

I have found your book "Manual of Tropical and Subtropical Fruits" of tremendous interest and only wish I owned a copy instead of having to borrow one from a library. It is surprising how little has been done with many plants you mention, since the book was written. More recent books at best repeat what you have written or write less. Probably the only progress has been with the avocado and date.

I hope that you will be able to help me with the supply of seed.

Yours sincerely,
S. N. Dawes

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 Sept 1967

Mr S N Dawes
70 Hautana St
Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

Dear Mr Dawes:

Replying to your interesting letter of 6/9/67 we have no experience here in connection with the cultural requirements of the green zapotes. That is to say, we horticulturists have done practically nothing with it. The tree grows commonly in dooryards, especially those of the Indians, in the Guatemalan highlands, mainly at elevations between 4000 and 6000 or 6500 feet. I would think that it would respond to fertilizers about as Citrus fruits do, and I believe it is just about as cold-tolerant as the orange. Unless you can grow oranges successfully I do not think you can do much with green zapotes.

I would be happy to send you half a dozen seeds of this fruit, but they are not available yet. I am leaving for Florida about 5 October and if any fruits show up before my departure I will get some and send you the seeds. If I cannot at this time, it is possible that I may be back here in Guatemala before they are all gone. I would make no charge for these nor for postage; you love plants and you know very well that folks like you and me enjoy passing around our pets.

It may interest you to know that I am working on a new book on tropical fruit culture which I hope will come out next year. Since publishing my Manual, way back in 1920, we have accumulated a lot of new information regarding nearly all of the really worth-while things.

Now I am going to ask a favor: I have just seen a reference to Bailey, F.L. 1961. Chinese Gooseberries, their Culture and Uses. New Zealand Dept of Agr Bulletin 349. Can you send me a copy of this, to my Florida address, which is 1722 NW Second Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32601, USA. I shall be there until early 1967, tho possibly coming down here once again before Christmas. I share an apartment there with my son Hugh Popenoe, who is Director of the Center for Tropical Agriculture at the University of Florida.

I am returning the reply coupon; it is more trouble to cash these things here than it is worth, and in any case there is no need for you to pay the postage on anything I send you.

Cordially yours,

70 Hautara St.
Lower Hutt
New Zealand
6/6/68

Dear Mr Popenoe

Thank you very much for sending the seed of *Achradelpha viridis*. It was a great thrill to get them and they arrived in perfect condition. They came very quickly also and were at the Hutt post office by the 27th. Just a week on the road.

As you say quick transport and the use of polythere make possible things that could not have been attempted a few years ago.

The name *Achradelpha* was a new one on me. I presume it is the latest botanical classification. I have got the feeling that botanists like to be

the only ones who know the latest name and are the only ones who can pronounce their tongue-twisters. Some kind of one-up-manship? Anyway I will be looking forward to you enlightening me on all the botanical jargon when your new book comes out. I presume it won't be long now and am certainly keen to get a copy.

As regards cost of sending the seeds, I know when I am beaten and hope that I can help to repay you with some favour at a later date.

Kind regards
Stuart Daves

Fruit Research Division
D.S.I.R.
Private Bag
Auckland
7/2/69

Dear Mr Poperal

It certainly is good to hear from you again & I am only sorry that I have not written myself earlier. I did rough out a letter before Xmas but didn't get it rewritten & sent.

Well as regards the green zapotes I haven't lost them & in fact I am very pleased with results. Out of the six seeds you sent I have five sturdy young trees about 2 feet high. I persevered with the sixth seed until recently but finally found that it only had the seed coat intact & was rotten inside.

It sounds as though everyone

has the same trouble with fairly simple minded field staff. I was tickled with the cow story. Here the mower is blamed and "mower disease" is all too common.

I have the 5 green zapotes in tall felt pots, as we used here for avocados, so they can root deeply. I will keep them under cover until the spring and then set them out. They will then have every chance. The large fruited variety that you have discovered interests me very much & I would definitely like to receive scions from it. First I had better enquire here what are the complications as regards importing scion wood and think in terms of seasons, and let you know. I feel pretty sure that the green zapote will grow well here. The Kekchi Indian name is interesting certainly this

zapote business is hopeless and more confusing than no common name.

Since I last wrote to you I have moved to Auckland which has a much warmer climate and I am now on the staff of Fruit Research Division, D. S. I. R.. My job here is chemist in the Food Processing Section and the work concerned with the chemical composition of N. Z. grown citrus and subtropicals. As a result I am much better placed to carry on my hobby of introducing new subtropicals. There is no one on the staff here doing this work at present & I feel fairly strongly about its importance.

At present I am writing a small article about the Casimiroa which does well here. There has been no real effort to collect good varieties

and Wilson, originally introduced from Armstrong Nurseries, Ontario, California, is the best variety. You could undoubtedly help me here. What do you consider are the best varieties? Pike sounds interesting & I know less about varieties from Florida eg. Dade & Long.

When I started to write before Xmas I looked over your previous letters & noted what you had said about the sapodilla. I think we should try it here. I have a copy of Geo. D. Ruehli's "The Sapodilla in Florida", University of Florida circular 5-34 & so have quite a bit of information. Grafted plants would seem to be the sensible thing to introduce & Prolific seems a good variety. However, I know you have been taking grafted plants into Honduras & so you are the person to ask. What rootstocks

do you use? I ask this as the plant quarantine people here are very scared of nematodes & root rotting fungi & do not like releasing plants brought in ~~with~~ rooted. They usually demand that you regraft onto seedlings. So I will wait until I hear from you & then sort things out this end.

Tell it was good advice of yours to use an aeroponome but I am afraid I have got a bit carried away. In fact I had better stop or I will end up with a book. Which reminds me how is the book going? I am dying to see a copy as for most subtropical fruit there has been nothing new written since your old book. I hope that your work in Guatemala & Honduras is progressing favourably & not all producing fat cows. Look after yourself & I look forward to hearing from you sometime in the future.

yours sincerely
Stuart Daves

C/o Plant Diseases Division

B.S.I.R.

Private Bag

AUCKLAND

NEW ZEALAND

23/7/69

Dear Mr Popenoe

I was very pleased to receive your letter back in January. I finally got a reply off in March. This letter I sent to Guatemala and so I haven't had a reply I presume it went astray. At least I hope this is the case and not that you are unwell. Anyway I will address this letter to Florida and hope that it reaches you.

Of the six green zapote seed you sent me just over a year ago five germinated and I now have five sturdy trees up to 4ft. 6 ins. high. I still have them in large pots as I don't want to put them out in the field until they are a good size and will now leave it until the spring. The tree you discovered near Antigua

2
sounds very interesting and I would certainly like some scian wood. What would be involved in sending it from you end? I would have to get permission to import scian wood & sort out quarantine procedure here.

Recently I have been thinking about the sapodilla and remembered that you once asked me if I was interested. Now that I am living further north in N.Y. I think that I should give this tree a try. I know you have done a lot of work with the sapodilla & can therefore advise me on the most promising variety. I have Geo. D. Ruelle's bulletin "The Sapodilla in Florida" and here have some information. He mentions a variety named Prolific as the most satisfactory.

I also want to pick your brains for information on the casimiroa. Our best variety here is Wilson of Californian origin. The only other named

varieties we derived from local seedlings and are not as good. Sometime in the future I would like to bring in some wood of the most promising varieties. I know a little of the Californian variety Pike but would like to know more about varieties from Florida etc.

How is the book that you & your son are writing going? I sure am looking forward to being able to get a copy.

I can sympathize with you over the cow problem we have similar trouble called "mower disease" and it sure is deadly.

This letter I hope will find you in good health. Try and keep out of the Honduran draft.

Yours sincerely
Stuart Dawes



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

Telephone 81 199
81 934
864 785
Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Postal address:
Private Bag
AUCKLAND

Reference:

24 November 1969

Mr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Mr Popenoe,

It is good to hear from you again. I was beginning to think you had quit the job. I am sorry that I have been making a nuisance of myself by being too pressing but I have been anxious to graft the green zapotes while they were in the right condition. So much correspondence must be a chore but I guess it is part of the price of being famous. Which reminds me, I hope that you do manage to get that book finished. All the copies of your old handbook are going to be worn out one of these days and for many sub-tropical fruits there is nowhere else to turn to for information.

... Anyway to return to the green zapote scions. I have obtained the necessary quarantine permit a copy of which I enclose together with its parcel tag. The diameter of the plants 6 to 12 ins above ground is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and if you could let me have 6 scions it would be wonderful. I am sorry about the cost but I can probably best repay you by forwarding seed or plant material from here. If there is anything that interests you please let me know.

Kindest regards,

Stuart Dawes

P.S. Could you give me the name and address of the sapodilla nurseryman in Florida. I might try and get some plants from him at a later date.

Enclosure

Antigua, Guatemala
19 December 1969

Stuart Dawes Esq.
Plant Disease Division
Auckland, New Zealand.

Dear Mr Dawes:

On returning the other day from two weeks in Honduras I found your letter of 24 November and the permit. I hastened to the Finca San Sebastian yesterday where I cut scions from the 45-year old tree which is growing near the house at that place. This produces the largest green zapotes which I have been in all my years here.

On packing the scions this morning I do not feel too confident that they are going to carry well. All we can do is to give them a chance. I don't know any better way to ship them than dry, in polyethylene. I have used this method on avocado scions to South Africa with success.

I cannot give you the same of the nurseryman in Florida who is producing grafted sapodillas but I will get it from my nephew who is the Director of the Fairchild Tropical Garden near Miami and send it to you later. I am in a hurry to get off to Guatemala City so will not write more today.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

Telephone 81 199
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Postal address:
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AUCKLAND

Reference:

19 February 1970

Mr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Mr Popenoe,

Thank you for all the trouble you went to collecting and sending the green zapote scions. Unfortunately they were 12 days getting here and in the open ended plastic film had dried very considerably. All scions were withered and although we grafted them immediately none have taken. This now puts me in a very difficult position. I definitely want to try again but realize that I may be asking far too much of you. Apart from the considerable work involved it is the cost of air freight. Yet I don't know how to recompense you. I guess all I can do is leave it to you to see if it is possible.

I obtained another Plant Quarantine Permit which I will enclose but I am afraid they did not supply a label this time for some unknown reason. If you are able to send more budwood would you please use a plastic bag rather than sheet. We have had good results here sending material overseas in plastic bags with the air squeezed out and the end of the bag sealed.

I hope that you are well and not working yourself too hard.

Kind regards.

Stuart Dawes.

Antigua, Guatemala, 23 October 1970

Mr Stuart Dawes
Plant Diseases Division
DSIR, Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Mr Dawes:

This morning I went down to Finca San Sebastian and found that the green sapote tree is going into the cool season and has dropped a good many leaves. I was able to find some terminals with no leaves on them. I think these may withstand transport better than trigs from which we have to cut six or eight leaves. They are bound to bleed a good deal.

I send these sciens herewith and will thank you to advise me by airmail of their condition on arrival. Not knowing how large your seedlings are, I have sent sciens of several diameters. Please tell me what you find most suitable, and please tell me about the way they are packed. I am not too sure our local plastic bags are of best quality.

The fruits on the San Sebastian tree are going to be fine large ones. I do not think they will be ripe in less than a month or two. I am in a hurry to get these sciens into the mail so they will not lie around Guatemala City over the week-end.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Pepee

Antigua, Guatemala 29 Oct 1970

Stuart Dawes Esq.
7 Kerry Maria Place
Glenfield
Auckland 10, New Zealand.

Dear Mr Dawes:

Not long ago I prepared some seeds of *Passiflora ligularis* for my friends at Almuñecar in southern Spain, where they grow lots of cherimoyas and are making fine progress with avocados. That area seems to cater for the West Indian race but the Guatemalans and hybrids like Fuerte do very well.

Perhaps you already have *P. ligularis*. It is much more popular here than *P. edulis* and grows in the belt as our pet *Achradelpha viridis*. We have grown it for years in Honduras at 6000 feet. If you are not acquainted with it you will find it described in Manual, page 235.

I am hoping to hear from you shortly about the last shipment of green zapote scions. If they did not reach you in good shape, and you can tell me what was wrong with the packing, and/or the scions, I am willing to try again as this last shipment only cost \$2.75 for postage. I did not "certify" (register) the shipment because I felt sure it would mean two to four days more delay in reaching you. If, however, this omission meant that the shipment did not reach you, I would "certify" the next one.

Always faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

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AUCKLAND

Reference

4 November 1970

Mr Wilson Popenae
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Mr Popenae,

The green zapote scions arrived in very good condition this time. I received them on Friday 30th October, just 7 days from Guatemala City, which was very good and makes all the difference. It would appear that the Guatemalan plastic bags are okay as only one scion showed signs of drying out. My seedlings were fairly large, so it was very handy to have scions of different diameters and we were able to use them all. I had been able to keep the seedlings growing actively so everything was favourable and we should succeed this time. Thanks for all your trouble. I will do my best to make it all worth while by putting a real effort into successfully establishing Achradelpha viridis here.

I also received the Passiflora ligularis seed in perfect condition, again in just 7 days, so it is possible to get things here from Guatemala very quickly. P. ligularis does exist here but is very little known. The purple form of P. edulis is quite an important crop in New Zealand but the industry is suffering rather badly from crown canker Fusarium lateritium and root rot Thielaviopsis basicola. A considerable amount of work has been done on root stocks without any real success yet. The banana passionfruit P. mollissima, which grows wild here as a garden escape, has been the most successful rootstock used. However, it is not entirely compatible and the grafting has to be high to overcome collar rots. I will send you under separate cover a copy of the Dept of Agriculture bulletin on passionfruit growing and any other reprints on passionfruit I can get.

Perhaps you have suggestions of possible hardy passionfruit species that should be tried here as rootstocks? The yellow P. edulis var. flavicarpa is not hardy enough for our conditions, but some hybrids between flavicarpa and the ordinary P. edulis, developed in Australia, are being tried here.

I have now refreshed my memory of P. ligularis by looking up your old Manual and realize more its importance. I think it is very timely that we have a closer look at it and I am very grateful for the seed you have sent.

Yours sincerely,

S.N. Dawes



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PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

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Reference FR 14/6 : SND

23 September 1971

Mr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Mr Popenoe,

I thought it was about time I made contact with you again and checked that you are well and as active as ever.

Now that I am responsible for work on citrus and subtropical fruit here I would like to pick your brains on avocado varieties that may be useful to us. Haas and Fuerte are the main varieties grown here and Haas in particular seems well adapted. We need further varieties that will give consistent crops of quality fruit.

Hardiness in the sense of resistance to frost and freezing temperatures is not needed but just general hardiness to survive our cool wet winters. As I have previously mentioned to you our summers are warm rather than hot and late flowering is one of the main attributes necessary. The early spring here is often cool wet and windy and avocado varieties which flower in late spring or early summer have a great advantage. Can you suggest varieties you have under test that may be useful to us?

If you are able to organize it, I would appreciate a few seed from the Finca San Sebastian Achradelpha viridis tree.

The plants of Passiflora ligularis from the seed you sent me are doing well so far.

Yours sincerely,

S. N. Dawes
S.N. Dawes

Antigua, Guatemala 14 Oct 1971

Mr S N Dawes
Plant Diseases Division
Auckland New Zealand

Dear Mr Dawes:

Your letter of 23 September has just come. I am still here - at the moment, that is, - but I have been in the USA and Honduras a good part of the time this year. And I am not as active as I used to be; I am beginning to feel my years.

Yes, yesterday I visited Finca San Sebastian and noted that the fruits of *Achradelpha viridis* will be ripe in another month or two. I shall try to send you some more seeds. I am afraid I fell down on the job last season.

About the avocado varieties: You say you need varieties which will give consistent crops of quality fruit. If the Guatemalan x West Indian hybrids are not sufficiently cold resistant for you the matter narrows down to the Guatemalan x Mexican hybrids such as Fuerte, and presumably the Guatemalans. You say that Hass does well with you. Hass is the most consistent bearer of the commercial Guatemalans. MacArthur and Anaheim are two others which are more regular in bearing than most of the Guatemalans but they are not top quality by any means, and are no longer being planted to any extent. Nabal is the finest of all Guatemalans in quality but by no means dependable for a good crop every year. It is one of the leaders in Israel, however; it gives large crops in the "on" years so that they say in Israel if you average the crop over a period of ten years the yield per theoretical year is satisfactory. I would think you might do well to try it; you will never eat a better avocado. I could send you budwood from here, - the native home of the variety is half a mile from where I sit; I introduced the variety into

the US in 1917.

I wonder if the Guatemalan x West Indian hybrids will stand your climate? They are more regular in bearing than the pure Guatemalans. Booth No. 7 is a good one, commercially important in Florida. Hall is another. I would not recommend Lula, long a leading variety in Florida, because of poor quality.

We have here a Guatemalan x Mexican which I got in Mexico in 1948. We like it here because it bears regularly and heavily, and is an attractive 10 to 14 oz fruit (the favorite commercial size) but the skin is rather thin and the variety has been dropped in California because it is subject to anthracnose. But others are just as bad in this respect.

If you have rootstocks of the right age, I would suggest that I send you scions of half a dozen varieties which might prove interesting. What method of grafting do you use? We are using nothing but the veneer side-graft here, but where shipping expense is so great I would use shield budding if I knew that it works pretty well in my region. They use it almost exclusively in California; the side-veneer graft on very young rootstocks in Florida.

You will probably find it hard to get anything to beat the Fuerte-Hass combination, for commercial purposes. If Fuerte were only more reliable in production. For fifty years (as a matter of fact, my father introduced Fuerte into California from Mexico in 1911 and I budded the very first trees) Fuerte has remained the most important variety in California altho we never stop kicking about its erratic bearing and are always hoping to get something better. It is remarkable for its long season- I pick fruits from the tree in my patio here from the first of July until the first of December.

Best regards always.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

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Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Reference FR14/6 - SND

16 November 1971

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Dr Popenoe,

I was glad to hear in your letter of 14 October that you are well and it seems to me, remarkably active. I would sure like seeds of Achradelpha viridis if you could send some.

The avocado story seems to get more complicated the more one learns. I was very glad of your comments and appreciate that no one has had longer association with avocados. The question of cold resistance is not a great problem with us. At the worst we only get light radiation frosts in our growing areas. Not enough work has been done to be very specific about what we can grow but at least some Guatemalan x West Indian hybrids have done well here. Booth 7 was under trial here once but has been lost. I don't think Hall was ever introduced. Your comment about Lula was very interesting. I know its reputation in Florida but here it produces fruit of good quality.

There was a variety trial of avocados here at Mt Albert until the bulldozers moved in to make way for a new building. This trial contained an adult tree of Lula which had cropped well and produced fruit with 17% oil content and good flavour. I think fruit are slower developing here, certainly than say in Florida, and this may enable them to reach a higher oil content by maturity. Booth 7 in the same trial had only had odd fruit.

Unfortunately I did not take over my present job until after this orchard was destroyed. Little had been done to ensure that all varieties of avocados were retained and Lula as well as Booth 7 were lost. I was therefore very interested in your mention of Lula in particular, as there is every indication that it will be a useful variety for us.

...

I have therefore had the enclosed Quarantine Permit made out to include 6 scions each of Lula, Booth 7, Hall and your Guatemalan x Mexican hybrid that has 10 to 14 oz fruit.

You will notice that every effort is being made to keep sun blotch virus out of New Zealand and I hope the requirements of the permit won't embarrass you. Send me a bill for the cost of postage etc. as I can easily reimburse you and there is no sense in you draining your resources.

Several people at Plant Diseases Division have had experience with grafting avocados, and they mostly use a simple whip and tongue graft. The side-veneer and side-wedge grafts have also been used but with less success. However, it is hard to know what is due to lack of experience. I will try and sort this out as I am able but will naturally use the expertise available.

The stocks I plan to use for grafting are Mexicola seedlings about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ in at the base and 18 ins to 2 ft high. We would use whip and tongue grafts and so need thin budsticks.

Kind regards,

Stuart Dawes
Stuart Dawes.



N.Z. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Plant Quarantine Permit to Import Nursery Stock

S.N. Dawes, (Pomologist)
Plant Diseases Division,
AUCKLAND.

Permit No. 10.156

Subject to the provisions of the Plant Quarantine Regulations 1957, and your agreement with special conditions endorsed hereon, permission is granted to you to import the following nursery stock:

Botanical Name	Number	Nature (Cuttings, Plants, etc.)	Country of Origin
<i>Persea americana</i> var. Booth No. 7	6	Scions	Antigua, Guatemala
Hall	6		
Lula	6		
unamed Guatemalan x Mexican hybrid	6		

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Inspection on arrival, and treatment if necessary:

The plants are to be grown under post entry quarantine at Plant Quarantine house, at Plant Diseases Division, Mt Albert for a minimum period of 2 growing seasons. The quarantine area must be kept clean of other plants and be isolated to the satisfaction of the Inspector.

While the plants are under quarantine they may not be used for propagation nor moved to another area. After the quarantine period has expired the plants will be inspected and if found free of disease a written notice of release will be issued.

If the conditions of this permit cannot be complied with the plants must be destroyed.

- The International Health Certificate is to be endorsed to the effect that the scions were either
 - grown in an area where sunblotch virus is not known to occur or
 - obtained from trees that have had no history of sun blotch virus.
- Two years post entry quarantine.

Signed:

for Director of the Horticulture Division.



Date: 1 November 1971

N.B.—

- No soil is allowed to accompany plants.
- All packing material will be destroyed.
- Packages of imported plants are to be opened only in the presence of a Horticultural Inspector.
- This form must accompany the health certificate with the plants.
- A 10% tolerance on the first 50 plants or parts of plant and thereafter a 5% tolerance is allowed as replacement material to cover deaths in transit. Numbers in excess must be destroyed.
- This permit is only valid for two years from date of issue.
- Contravention of the regulations renders a person liable to a fine of \$40.

[DAWES]
Antigua, Guatemala 2 February 1972

Mr Stuart Chase?
Auckland, New Zealand.

Dear Mr Chase:

I am sorry to be so slow in replying to your letter of 16 November last. I have been practically out of commission since October. Two sessions in the hospital, and it is only last week that I have been able to get around again. I went to the Finca San Sebastian yesterday to see if I could get you some more Achradelpha seeds but the tree is now in bloom.

Regarding avocado material: Are your rootstocks in good condition for grafting and is this a good season? Arturo Falla of Finca San Sebastian will give me scions for you, but the trees are in bloom right now and I could get better grafting material another month or two; however I think I can get enough right now, if this is the best season for grafting. I cannot get you Lula here; we do not think much of it and they are abandoning it in Florida but could still get scions from Homestead if you want them. I would like to send you Fuerte (if you don't have it) and Hass which you have by all means though I cannot be sure it will do well in your climate. I think I can send Booth 7, which is a good one, and I would suggest Choquette which a Guat x W I hybrid, a good bear and fruit very large (which makes it popular here) and perhaps Aztec, a Mex x Guat hybrid popular here because it bears at an early age and a good crop annually; fruit rather thin skinned and subject to anthracnose if not sprayed.

I suggest wood to make about 5 scions of each variety. What do you say?

Faithfully yours,



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
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Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Reference: FR 14/6 : SND

9 February 1972

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Dr Popenoe,

I was sorry to read in your letter of 2 February that you have been ill and hope that you are picking up again.

My luck doesn't seem too good with Achradelpha seed. Perhaps you will be able to send some when the next crop is ready?

Now with regard to avocados, I think that it would be best if you were to send the scionwood as soon as you are able. There would be no advantage for me to get wood in March rather than now and I have seedlings in good condition to graft.

We have Fuerte and Hass well established here and in fact they form the backbone of our small avocado industry. Hass in particular does very well. As you say you cannot get Lula for me perhaps you would be good enough to send wood of:

Booth 7
Coquette
and Aztec

The Plant Quarantine Permit I forwarded earlier will cover the introduction of these varieties and enough wood to make about 5 scions of each variety as you suggest will work out well.

See that you look after yourself well.

Kind regards,

Stuart Dawes
Stuart Dawes

Antigua, Guatemala, 7 March 1972

Mr Stuart Dawes
Dept of Scientific and Industrial Research
Auckland, N Z

Dear Mr Dawes:

Your letter of 9 February indicates that you received the letter sent you by a limping wreck recently out of the hospital, addressed to Stuart Chase, an old friend of mine who wrote a book on Latin America which wasn't too good, in my opinion. This has nothing to do with my opinion of your pomological interest and skill!

I will keep in my Achradelpha viridis and try to get more seeds. In a publication from California I find a note to the effect that it has just fruited for the first time in that State. I think you know it is growing pretty well in southern Florida but there are only a few trees as yet.

Now about this avocado problem, and problem it is unless you folks don't bother about official Latin American documents with seals on them. The Plant Quarantine service (Sanidad Vegetal) in Guatemala City seems to be undergoing frequent reorganizations. They had a good Plant Pathologist, Enrique Schieber (German parentage) with a Ph D from Wisconsin. He no longer is with the Sanidad Vegetal as he was for ten years. He is a neighbor of mine. He will give me a note to the effect that our avocado budwood is grown in an area where no sunblotch virus is known to occur, or I can do the same myself on official letterhead of Escuela Agricola Panamericana. As far as the facts are concerned, this will be better than a paper with official seal, signed by a chap who is not a real plant pathologist and does not know aguacates.

In yours of 9 Feb you ask for Booth 7, Choquette and Aztec. Trees here are taking the spring flush of growth, or are in flower, but I think I can get material before long.

Faithfully yours,

BY AIR MAIL

AFFIX STAMP HERE

AEROGRAMME

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11-719
29 MAR
1972

Dr Wilson Popenoe

Antigua

Guatemala

CENTRAL AMERICA

SENDER'S NAME Mr S.N. Dawes
AND ADDRESS Plant Diseases Division DSIR
Private Bag AUCKLAND N.Z.



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Ref: FR14/6 - SND

NEW ZEALAND

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Plant Diseases Division
Private Bag
AUCKLAND N.Z.

29 March 1972

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Mr Popenoe,

It is good to know that you are making a good recovery from your recent illness.

As regards the avocado scionwood, a note to the effect that it is from an area where sun blotch virus is not known to occur either signed by yourself or Enrique Schieber would be quite satisfactory.

I hope that you are able to send the varieties concerned.

Yours sincerely,

S. N. Dawes
S.N. Dawes.

Antigua, Guatemala 8 May 1972

Mr S. V. Dawes
Plant Diseases Division
Private Bag
Auckland, New Zealand.

Dear Mr Dawes:

The avocados from which you desire budwood are still in blossom or the new growth has not yet lignified sufficiently to be suitable for grafting. I am watching the trees at Arturo Falla's orchard near here and will send some scions as soon as they are ready, which I think will be within a very few weeks.

I believe you asked for more seeds of Achradelpha viridis. When I went to the market last Sunday I found the two largest fruits of this species I have ever seen; one of them a full 4 inches in diameter, the other 3-1/2 inches. Quality fine. There were two seeds in the largest fruit, one in the other. I am sending these seeds herewith and trust they will reach you in good condition.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

Telephone 81 199
81 934
864 785
Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Postal address:
Private Bag
AUCKLAND

Reference FR14/6 - SND

6 June 1972

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antiqua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Dr Popenoe,

It was very good of you to send the three seed of Achradelpha viridis which arrived in good condition. It sounds as though the fruit from which they came were indeed of fine quality. I hope the seedlings come true to type.

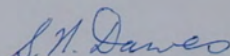
I am sorry that it cost you so much to send these seed, but will try and do something about this.

Everything is organized here to receive the avocado scionwood when it is convenient for you to send some. I received a small consignment of scionwood of new varieties from Dr W. Pennock, Agricultural Experiment Station, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico recently and was very pleased to see one West Indian variety called "W. Popenoe".

I am hoping for a study tour in about a years time which would take me to California, Florida and down into Central and South America. Naturally I would very much like to look you up in Guatemala if that were convenient and wonder if there are particular people or institutions that you could suggest I should see? Do you know anyone at Palmira in Colombia I can't get a reply from them?

I hope that you have largely regained your health and are as busy as ever.

Yours sincerely,


S.N. Dawes.

Antigua, Guatemala 7 July 1972

Mr Stuart Dawes
Plant Disease Division
Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Mr Dawes:

Under separate cover I am airmailing to your address scions of four avocado varieties, Booth 7, Aztec, Cristina and Quiñones. I have been unable to obtain Lula or Hall here. I am going over to Zamorano next week (Escuela Agrícola Panamericana) and if I can obtain Lula and Hall there I will send you scions.

I enclose copy of a document which is to my mind more important than would a certificate from the present Plant Quarantine Service here. I am sure there is no man at present in that Service who has the professional experience of Dr. Eugene Schleber who was in charge of it for years.

There is much sooty mould on these scions. I regret this, but it has not been possible to obtain material in better condition. Sooty mould is of course of no importance, except that when I used to ship avocado budwood from Guatemala to the United States 50 years ago, I had to pack it in moist sphagnum moss; it was on the road two weeks or more; and usually arrived in bad condition. Please let me know how this material goes through.

As to the varieties, you know all about Booth 7. I consider it superior to Booth 8 in quality - everybody does - but Booth 8 is being planted more extensively in Florida. Aztec I have written you about; it is a Guat x Mex hybrid from Atlixco which has not become

commercially important in California, though it is a very strong grower, frost resistant, and very productive. They say it is subject to attack by anthracnose. This has not proved to be serious here in Guatemala and Arturo Falla is strong for this variety. It is slightly larger than Fuerte, of the same shape and color, with a seed not too large and flesh of fairly good quality - better than Lula, we think. Quiñonez is one of Falla's local selections, Guatemalan race I believe, which he considers very good. The same is true of Cristina. The big problem with Guatemalans here is productivity and Falla thinks these two are very satisfactory from that standpoint.

In your letter of 6 June you mention receiving wood from Bill Penneck in Puerto Rico. I assume his "W. Popenoe" is the West Indian variety of that name introduced by Fausto Menocal of Cuba some 40 years ago. This fruit is famous for its eating quality, but is too long and slender to pack well for shipment and of course being a West Indian is not very frost-resistant. I do not know what your experience has been with West Indians.

Incidentally, the great demand here for avocados - nursery stock - is mainly for Fuerte. I would say there are 5 trees of this variety to any other. Hass is going strong based upon its rapidly growing reputation in California but I am not yet convinced it is going to be a large enough fruit for our market.

With best regards,

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

Telephone 81 199
81 934
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Postal address:
Private Bag
AUCKLAND

Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Reference FR 14/6 : SND

18 July 1972

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Dr Popenoe,

The avocado scionwood arrived today, 18 July in good condition and has been grafted. Our stocks although kept in warm conditions are not making much growth in the middle of our winter. However, I hope we will be successful with the grafting.

Hass is still the most promising avocado in New Zealand, Fuerte having the maddening habit of irregular bearing. The only other commercial variety here is a local chance seedling Hopkins which has good quality, rather large fruit but is a bad biennial bearer. You could find a description of this variety in the 1965 Avocado Yearbook written by Dr C.A. Schroeder "Avocado and Other Subtropical Fruits in New Zealand". If you were interested in scionwood of Hopkins I would be pleased to send some to you.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Dawes
Stuart Dawes



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

Telephone 81 199
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Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Postal address:
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AUCKLAND
New Zealand

Reference FR 14/6 : SND

7 September 1972

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Dr Popenoe,

Thank you very much for sending the avocado scions of Lula and Booth 7 from Honduras. I got a great surprise and was especially pleased to see Lula included. The original Lula tree here cropped very well and it is a pity the variety was lost.

I am afraid the package was a long while getting here, as it arrived yesterday 6 Sept, after being posted on 10 August. Considering the length of time it took for the scionwood to get here it wasn't in bad condition, but only time will tell how successful we are with grafting. I will let you know how we get on.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Dawes
Stuart Dawes

Antigua, Guatemala 24 Sept 1972

Mr Stuart Dawes
Auckland, N Z.

Dear Mr Dawes:

On getting back here from Honduras a couple of weeks ago I found your letter of 7 Sept saying the shipment of avocado scions from Honduras had arrived and were not in bad condition. But it seems to me the postal service is getting worse. The only consolation is that this last lot - and they were two varieties I think you must have, as little respect as I have for Lula as a good avocado - is this: You remember the first lot I sent you, in July I believe. Well, I had quite an excess for scions for that shipment and didn't like their looks because they were covered with sooty mold, but I wrapped a dozen in polyester or whatever you folks call it, put them on a shelf here in my office, forgot about them, came across them two days ago and opened the package to find the scions still in usable condition. Of course the climate here is not too hot.

I wish we could get the new Reed avocado from California, but it is patented and I found any one yet who will swipe a half dozen bud sticks and send them to me. Reminds me of the old days when everybody who went from Florida or Central America to Cuba swiped some tobacco - see in Pinar del Rio and thought he was going to turn out Cerena Cerena cigars over here, and was sadly disappointed. But when the good Cuban YERBAES paddled across to Honduras after Castro took over they showed us how to cure tobacco and we are now making cigars as good as 90% of Cuba's best.

Best regards always



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

Telephone 81 199
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864 785
Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Postal address:
Private Bag
AUCKLAND

Reference: FR 14/6 : SND

17 October 1972

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Dr Popenoe,

Good to hear from you again and that you sound fit and well.

So far we have got several successful grafts of each of the avocado varieties you sent. Lula does not look too happy however, so I will just have to keep my fingers crossed.

I also would like to get hold of Reed it sounds as though it would suit our conditions. It has been introduced by a grower here, but he is not yet able to let me have any wood. In fact I am considering reimporting it to get going quicker.

I am now hoping that I may get a chance of a study trip perhaps next July and August; to California, Florida and then down into Central and South America. Naturally I would very much like to look you up and wonder if you could give me some idea of accomodation costs in a medium class hotel or motel in Guatemala City and Antigua?

Would there be much of interest to me at the Chimaltenango Experiment Station? I gather there is a Middle Zone and Cold Zone fruit research programme under the Guatemala Ministry of Agriculture. Certainly I would want to see as much as possible but it should be largely at high enough altitude to be applicable to New Zealand conditions.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Dawes
Stuart Dawes



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

Telephone 81 059

Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Postal address:
Private Bag
AUCKLAND

Reference:

23 November 1972

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
GUATEMALA

Dear Wilson,

Good to hear from you again and to know that you seem in good spirits.

As I feared none of the Lula scions survived. We have Fuerte, Hass and Nabal well established here but the only Lula tree which was on this property was removed without wood being distributed. Yet it had fruited well and consistently and appeared to reach a higher oil content than it does in Florida. This would no doubt be due to the longer time the fruit would take to mature here.

I am intrigued to hear that Fuerte has exactly the same season in Antigua as here. July to November is regarded as the Fuerte season in northern New Zealand. I did not know that Quarantine kept avocados out of the U.S.

As regards the big Calocarpum viride seed, one went rotten, while we still have the other two seed in pots but there is no sign of them germinating yet. I haven't given up hope however.

Thanks for the information on cost of hotels, I would take your advice and keep away from tourist agencies.

Although I am interested in Temperate zone fruits, I would mostly want to see subtropicals, citrus, avocados etc. as well as indigenous plants such as Calocarpum viride.

I am not conversant with peach and pear varieties grown in New Zealand so have asked Mr A. Farmer our stone fruit specialist and Dr D. McKenzie the pip fruit specialist to write to you.

It appears that I now have a fair chance that I will be able to visit Guatemala in mid-1973. I will let you know when I hear definitely.

Kind regards,

Stuart Dawes
Stuart Dawes



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

Telephone 81 059

Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Postal address:
Private Bag
AUCKLAND

Reference:

21 May 1973

Dr Wilson Popence
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Wilson,

I am now beginning to believe that I will be heading off to Central and South America before long. My itinerary is arranged and I plan to arrive in Guatemala City from Mexico on Tuesday 3 July. I will be in Guatemala until Friday 13 July, when I fly on to San Jose. The Tropical Section of A.S.H.S. are having their annual Congress in San Jose the following week, so I will be able to attend, which is very fortunate.

As you can see I will have about 9 days in Guatemala which should let me have quite a good look around. I will go to the Ministry of Agriculture in Guatemala City first to put myself on side and see if they can help me. Then I will make my way to Antigua and look you up.

That sounds pretty good to me and I am certainly looking forward to chatting with you about a number of things. Also I would like to see the green zapote in the flesh and avocado varieties in your area.

Kind regards,

Stuart Dawes
Stuart Dawes

Antigua, Guatemala 28 May 1973

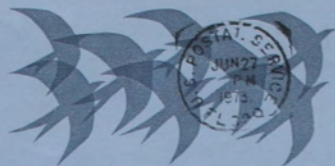
Stewart Dawes Esq
Plant Disease Division
Auckland, N.Z.

Dear Stewart:

Your letter of 21 has just come, as we say in Florida. I hope you are going to visit California before coming down to Mexico, but maybe that isn't on your program. I assume you have contacts already set up in Mexico. If not, I would like to make a few suggestions: don't miss Atlixco and the Hacienda ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, and don't fail to see don Salvador Sanchez Colón, the big shot in the avocado business.

I am afraid you won't get much out of the boys at the Ministerio de Agricultura in Guatemala City. Your best base is here in Antigua, and I am sorry I cannot ask you to stay at my house because it is the busy season and we will pretty surely have our house full. I am sure the people who can be most useful to you here are Arturo Falla and myself (Arturo has the best avocado orchard and the green sapote tree which interests you). There are busses every hour from Guatemala City to Antigua, 50 minutes, and there are two or three hotels here which are OK: The Antigua, where most gringo tourists go, is about \$18 a day, including meals; the Posada de Don Rodrigo, food not so good, about \$15, and the Aurora, two blocks from my house, where I would stay because it is the kind of hotel I stayed in here 50 years ago, clean and \$8 a day with good native food. I would say it all depends on what kind of an expense account you have.

The Ministerio seems to be losing interest in the avocado program and has abandoned the large nursery they had near Antigua. Arturo Falla is your best bet, so far as seeing nursery work and trees are concerned. Best regards always,



*Dr Wilson Poporoe
Antigua
Guatemala
Central America*

AEROGramME • VIA AIR MAIL • PAR AVION

② Second fold



Additional message area

University of Florida
Agricultural Research & Education
Center

Homestead
Florida
25/6/73

Dear Wilson

Your letter of 28 May was forwarded to me here at Homestead.

So far I have been very well looked after and have learnt a lot. I came there through Hawaii and California so have seen a fair bit already.

Tomorrow I go on to Mexico and had been told to contact Salvador Sanchez Colin. I then received a telegram from him telling me to contact Sigfrido Varado when I reach Mexico City. This I will do and it seems as though I have got the right contacts. Thanks for the information regarding Atlisco and Hacienda Xahuatl. I will do my best to get there.

As regards Guatemala I will need to see the Ministerio de Agricultura people in Guatemala City, but will cut it as short as I can and head for Antigua. The Aurora will do me fine and I should get to Antigua by Friday the 6th or Saturday the 7th of July. Perhaps you could mention to the proprietor of the Aurora that I will be coming. I don't know how difficult accommodation is at this time of year.

Kind regards

Stuart Dawes



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

Telephone 81 059

Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Postal address:
Private Bag
AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND

Reference: FR 14/6 : SND

25 February 1974

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Wilson,

Well it sure has taken me a long while to get around to writing to you. I arrived back in New Zealand at the beginning of October, a fortnight later than planned. The hold up was due to the revolution in Chile, which to put it mildly was a very unpleasant affair. It rounded off my Latin American education very well and I sure was glad to get back to peaceful orderly New Zealand.

I have often looked back on the week I spent in Antigua in July and only wished I had had longer there. The trips we went on were real good fun as well as informative.

The most interesting countries I went to after Guatemala were Ecuador, Brazil and Chile. In Ecuador I got to Ambato and after a considerable struggle obtained cuttings of the babaco at Patate. These I was able to send back to New Zealand from Peru and we now have five plants one of which is in the field. The fruit of this plant is very impressive and it is amazing that it is unknown outside of Ecuador. Ecuador is the only place I saw the naranjilla grown as a crop and I was surprised at the altitude to which it is grown.

Most of my time in Brazil was spent at the Instituto Agronomico at Campinas, inland from Sao Paulo. It is a very good institute and I found the Brazillians unpretentious and enjoyed my stay there.

In Chile I was unlucky in that I was there just before and during the revolution, which made it very difficult to get around. The avocados and cherimoyas in the Aconcagua valley were very interesting. Cherimoyas are very popular, but no real selection work has been done and the trees are generally irregular bearers. I was able to get scionwood from a few interesting trees back to New Zealand.

With avocados many Mexican seedlings are still grown, but the few good growers are growing Fuerte, Hass, Bacon and Ryan and one local selection Negra La Cruz, a purple skinned Mexican x Guatemalan

mature in the late autumn and winter. For this reason it is very useful as there is nothing else mature at this time. The only trouble is it is a biennial bearer.

At La Serena I saw crops of mountain pawpaw (*Carica pubescens* syn. *C. candamarcensis*). Most of these are canned and the product is very pleasant and much better than canned papaya.

Since I arrived back I have followed up on a number of things including trying to get the avocado variety Collinred from Florida. I have tried Homestead and Miami without success and it seems Collinred has disappeared there. Carl Campbell at Homestead sent me scionwood of Collinred B, also known as Fairchild, but of course it is quite a different plant, though it may be interesting in its own right.

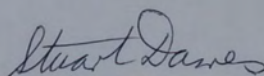
Is there any chance of you getting me scionwood of Collinred from Roberto Carlos? I am sorry to trouble you, but I don't know where else I could get it. There is no hurry, in fact August would be a good time to get wood here and of course I would have to send you a plant quarantine permit if you are able to forward the wood.

Collinred must have been widely distributed once as it is grown in Peru and Brazil.

Please give my regards to Roberto Carlos and Arturo Falla.

I hope that you and your wife and daughter are well and please thank them for their kindness to me while I was in Antigua.

Kind regards,


Stuart Dawes



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
PLANT DISEASES DIVISION

Telephone 81 059

Telegrams: "Plantlab"

Postal address:
Private Bag
AUCKLAND

Reference: FR 14/6 -SND

10 May 1974

Dr Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
CENTRAL AMERICA.

Dear Wilson,

... Glad to hear that you can get me the Collinred scionwood and I am enclosing a Plant Quarantine Permit to cover the importation. It does seem funny that the variety that Roberto Carlos is calling Collinred is ripe at the same time as the pure-blood Guatemalans. Surely it should be earlier? With the variety Arturo Falla had, he was calling it Hauha which is very confusing. At least the trees Roberto Carlos had were cropping well. By the way please say hello to both Arturo Falla and Roberto Carlos for me.

Late August would be a good time to get the avocado scionwood here, as it is the end of our winter and the days are getting longer and warmer. We do our grafting for preference then and in the following two months. We are still grafting, using a whip and tongue or cleft graft, having not had much success with budding. I think it is largely a matter of being conversant with one method rather than one being better than the other. If you could give me plump scionwood from terminal shoots that made good spring growth it will be ideal.

Are there any coyo trees near Antigua? I have been reading your Bulletin No. 743 again and it would be very interesting to see if the coyo would grow here if it were possible to get a few seeds from a good tree.

I now have a few trees in the field of each of the avocado varieties Christina, Quinones and Aztec that you sent me in July 1972. As soon as they make reasonable growth I will give some wood to a few good growers and we can get information on their performance here quicker.

I hope this finds you all well.

All the best.

Stuart
Stuart N. Dawes

P.S. Did Sally get the house she was after?

Encl.

Antigua, Guatemala, 6 Sept 1974

Mr Stuart N. Dawes
Plant Disease Division
Dept of Scientific and Industrial Research
Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.

Dear Stuart:

Referring to your letter of 10 May, I was waiting until your grafting season to get you scions of the Collinred avocado. Yesterday, on going to Arturo Falla's orchard we found it impossible to get good scions from any one of his three trees. They are in flush right now, but very weak and little growth. The last flush, and in fact all green wood, is covered with sooty mould. And such thingwood. I hate to send it, but if we waited another three months there would be no thicker scions, and there would be sooty mould on them right from the start, I am afraid. When I was exploring for avocados back in 1916-1920 and had to ship scions in sphagnum moss I always found that sooty mould developed en route to Washington and the scions never grew. I have never tried shipping dirty scions dry, in plastic, by air mail.

If the material I enclose does not grow, I don't know when I will be able to get better material. As you mention in your letter, the variety Roberto Carlos calls Collinred is not that variety; it has neither the color, nor the fruit form, nor the ripening season. I think the one I am sending, which Arturo Falla has been calling Jauja, is really Collinred. I examined a fruit which I cut from one of his trees; it looks to me like Collinred, will probably ripen in two or three months, which is too early for a pure Guatemalan here, and he says the color is not dark purple but a sort of maroon red, which would be right.

You ask about coyó (persea schiedeana). There are no trees here in Antigua and very rarely have I seen one which produces fruit good enough to merit propagation. In the last Yearbook of the California Avocado Society C.A. Schroeder writes that they are using coyó successfully as a rootstock for avocados, I believe it is in Australia, and George Zentmyer is interested because there is a possibility that it might be resistant to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. We tried grafting Fuerte on coyó in Honduras many years ago and while it makes a good union Fuerte did not continue to grow well on this root and suckers from the coyó smothered the Fuerte in a couple of years. I might be able to get you some coyó seeds here in Guatemala later but I wonder if you not get them more easily in Australia?

With best regards always,

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popehoe