

## Avocado Guide



There are two types of avocados grown in California: Guatemalan and Mexican. All varieties are frost tender, with Mexican avocados being slightly hardier. Types A & B are required for best production in our area (see pollinating). Fruit may take 6-18 months to mature.

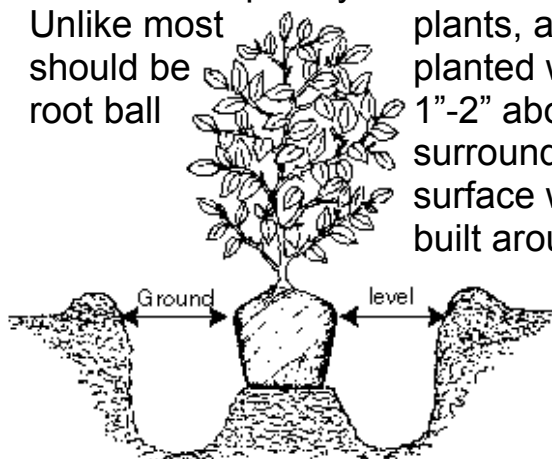
### Planting

Avocados require well drained, fertile soil and will not thrive in heavy clay soils for long. Dig a hole twice the size and depth of the container and use our



**Master Nursery Gold Rush** to amend your existing soil and **Master Start** starter fertilizer according to package directions.

Do not plant you avocado too deeply! Unlike most plants, avocados should be planted with the root ball 1"-2" above the surrounding soil surface with a basin built around it.



Plant in a sunny location that is protected from wind and drains well.

Like many deciduous fruit trees, you may be able to plant more than one tree in the same hole, or plant the trees together with as little as 4' of space between the trunks.

**Remember that mature trees can grow up to 25' without pruning, so select variety and planting site carefully.**

### Watering

Do not over water avocado trees! Over watering trees in the ground is often the number one factor in causing root rot. Avocados prefer infrequent deep root watering. Let trees dry out adequately before watering again.

### Mulching

A 3"-4" layer of mulch around your tree should help to retain soil moisture and improve soil quality. Apply in spring and fall under the canopy of the tree, avoiding the trunk.

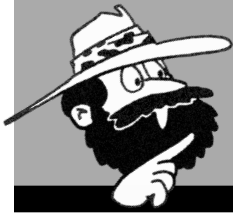


### Fertilizing

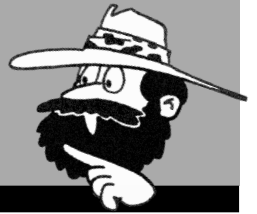
Feed your tree monthly with **Master's Citrus Food** March-September, and switch to **Master Bloom** October-February to encourage flowering. Well fed avocados are better able to withstand our winter cold.



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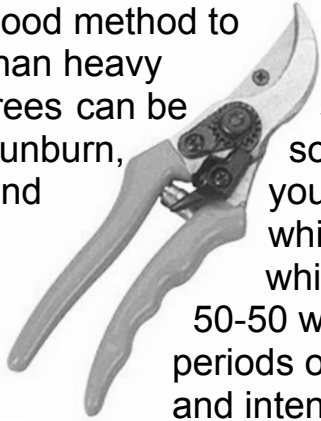
# Avocados-Continued



## Pruning

Prune your avocado minimally; only to control shape and size.

Frequent pinching of young trees is a good method to shape the tree, rather than heavy pruning. Avocado trees can be susceptible to sunburn, and so newly pruned trees young trees can be whitewashed with interior white latex paint diluted 50-50 with water during periods of high summer heat and intense sunshine.



## Varieties

**Hass-Mexican, Type A**-Largest commercially produced variety. Green fruit with black, pebbly skin. Large tree, 10-12oz fruit ripens April-September.

**Bacon-Mexican, Type B**-Popular variety. Green fruit with medium thin skin. Medium upright trees; 10-12oz fruit bears heavier in alternating years and ripens December-January.

**Fuerte-Hybrid, Type B**-Green fruit, medium thin skin. Large spreading tree. 10-12 oz fruit ripens December-May.

## Pollinating

Avocados have complex pollination and are identified as Type A or Type B. This refers to when flowers open and pollen is released, not male and female trees. All trees have both male and female flowers, but **best production is acquired when both types are planted together.**

**Type A:** Flowers open Day 1 as females in the morning then close that afternoon. Day 2 male flowers open in the afternoon, shed pollen for a few hours then close again for good.

**Type B:** Flowers open Day 1 as females in the afternoon, then close. Day 2, male flowers open in the morning, then close for good.



**Mexicola-Mexican, Type A**-14-16oz. fruit with thin, shiny black skin ripens August-October. *One of the cold hardiest varieties to 18° F.*

**Stewart-Mexican, Type A**-Compact Mexicola type avocado. 4-8 oz fruit with black, thin skin ripens August-October. *One of the cold hardiest varieties to 18° F.*

**Zutano-Hybrid, Type B**-Green 10-12 oz fruit with medium thin skin. Upright tree, ripens November-January. *One of the cold hardiest varieties to 26° F.*

**Lamb Hass-Hybrid, Type A**- Dwarf "Hass-like" cultivar with black skinned fruit. Precocious, high yielding, upright and compact with 10-16 oz fruit ripening April-November.

**Little Cado/Wertz/Wurtz, Hybrid, Type A or B**- Dwarf 8'-12' tree Green skinned fruit with medium thin skin. 8-14 oz fruit ripens May-September.