

Avocado Care:

Planting

The avocado is a shallow rooted tree (most of the feeder roots are in the top 6" of soil) which needs good aeration. They do well if mulched with a coarse yard mulch. Current recommendation is to put approximately 1/3 cubic yard per tree when planting. When applying the mulch, be sure to stay about 6-8 inches away from the trunk of the tree. They like the soil pH around 6 - 6.5. If you can, plant your tree in a spot protected from wind and frost. Also, avocado trees typically do not do well planted in lawns so try to plant your tree in a non-lawn area.

Fertilizing

As far as fertilizing, the recommendation for young avocado trees is 1/2 to 1 pound of actual Nitrogen per tree per year. You can spread it out over several applications as long as it totals 1/2 to 1 pound of Nitrogen. The other important nutrient for avocado trees is Zinc. A general use home fertilizer that is used for houseplants normally should work. You may once a year wish to feed in some zinc if the fertilizer you are using does not have zinc. The major nutrients that the avocado tree needs are NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) and Zinc.

Watering

When watering the tree, it is best to soak the soil well, then allow it to dry out somewhat before watering again. Of course, like most plants, you don't want the tree to get too dry! The rule of thumb for mature trees is about 20 gallons of water a day during the irrigation season. Seedling will require quite a bit less than that, of course. At planting the trees can hold about 2 gallons of water in their rooted volume. Depending on the weather, they might use 1 gallon of water a day along the coast. Typically the trees need to be watered 2-3 times a week. As the roots reach out into the bulk soil, more water can be applied and frequency of watering diminishes to about 1 time per week by the end of a year. Check the soil before watering, to make sure it has dried somewhat. If the soil from around the roots can still hold the impression of the hand when squeezed, it still has enough water.

For more information and questions, please visit <http://www.ucavo.ucr.edu/>

Credits:

**University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources
South Coast Research and Extension Center
Avocado Germplasm Collection**

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Gregory Rager, photographs, design, printing (& omissions/errors)



AVOCADO VARIETY CHART & SCHEDULE

Approximate time avocados are ready to pick in Orange County, California

Variety	Flower Type (1, 2)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bacon	B	█	█	█									
Fuerte	B	█	█	█	█	█							█
Gwen	A			█	█	█	█	█	█				
Gem	A			█	█	█	█	█	█	█			
Harvest	A								█	█	█	█	
Hass	A		█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Hellen	B							█	█	█	█		
Holiday (XX3)	A							█	█	█	█	█	
Janboyce	A			█	█	█	█						
Lamb Hass	A							█	█	█	█	█	█
Mexicola	B									█	█	█	█
Nabal	B							█	█	█	█	█	█
Nimloh	B							█	█	█	█	█	█
Pinkerton	A		█	█	█	█	█						
Reed	A								█	█	█	█	
Sharwil	B			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Sir Prize	B	█	█	█	█								
Stewart	A										█	█	█
Wertz (litlecado, minicado)	A					█	█	█	█				
Zutano	B	█	█	█	█								

1) **A** and **B** are types of flowers -- determined by when in the day the flower is male or female -- mixing types is thought to increase pollination results and therefore increase the yield.