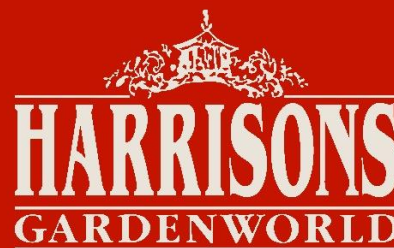


Success with Avocado Trees

Please visit our website www.harrisons.co.nz for more information on available varieties and successful pollination of your trees.



Avocado trees like free draining soil, full sun and to be sheltered from winds

Here are some top tips for planting and growing your trees for great results

General:

Avocados are native to Central America. Avocado are very old and were a staple diet for many ancient cultures. Once discovered this strange fruit was carried to many different parts of the world. In the late 19th - early 20th century Europeans started to select seedlings from Mexico and the rest is history as the avocado spread worldwide - now we can all enjoy the creamy healthy goodness.

Planting: - when planting your tree try to minimise root damage.

Dig a hole slightly deeper and wider than the bag. The only fertiliser you can use is a controlled release as others may burn the roots. We recommend **ican Slow Food** for 24 months of base feeding.

Your young tree should be supported with a strong wooden stake. Do not push the stake through the nursery growing media as this will damage the roots. Place in the hole and drive it in before positioning your tree.

- Cut the base of the bag and remove. Then cut a slit half way up the side of the bag.
- Place your tree in the hole, fold up the cut bag and cover the exposed root ball with soil.
- Slit the remainder of the bag, remove, and cover the remaining roots with soil, gently pressing from the sides towards the centre. Care must be taken at this stage as the roots of avocado trees are very brittle and break easily.
- **NEVER TEASE OUT THE ROOTS!**
- Do not compress or stamp the soil down with your feet.
- Position the tree in such a way that most of the branches and leaves face the direction of the sun in order to protect the tree against sunburn.
- Tie the tree firmly to the stake attaching above the side branches. Regularly check that the ties are still effective (every four to six weeks) and note that it may be necessary to loosen the ties to prevent them from strangling the tree.
- Irrigate well after planting as this helps to bring the soil into close contact with the root ball.

Water:

More damage is done by over watering than under watering so err on the side of too little. Avocado trees prefer to be watered deeply then left to dry out rather than being watered often. If there is no rain consider watering deeply once a week, adjusting the frequency of watering with natural rainfall

Fertiliser:

Apply little and often from early spring to late summer with a high Nitrogen fertiliser. It may sound crazy but our ican Vegetable Fertiliser is perfect for Avocados. Some animal manures are very good but ensure they are well composted to prevent burning of the root system.

Mulch:

Avocado trees respond well to mulch as it helps to minimise weed competition and retains moisture in the soil. Ensure mulch is a loose material (e.g. pea straw, Tui Mulch and Feed) or well composted. We do not recommend grass clippings as if they are applied too thickly they can suffocate the roots.

Fruiting:

Avocado trees will start to produce fruit from as early as year three with the numbers increasing with tree size. Fruit set on the tree between September and November each year and are ready to pick anywhere between 10 and 18 months after fruit set, depending on the variety.

Pruning:

Avocado trees can be kept to a desired size by an annual prune (post-harvest). Make one or two cuts of the most offending limbs (target 20% of the total canopy area) and cut back to near the main stem. This will ensure the rest of the tree will keep flowering and fruiting.

Cold Tolerance:

Young avocado trees can withstand a light frost but try to minimise damage by protecting with frost cloth if cold weather is forecast. The effects of damage can be lessened by

- keeping the tree covered with frost cloth or similar (a sheet of newspaper will do)
- keeping the tree nice and green through regular fertiliser applications
- spraying with Copper or Vapourguard Frost Protectant.
- Note: **Fuerte and Bacon are more cold hardy** than Hass and Reed.

Enjoy the Harvest:

On its own or in a salad, meat dishes or make your favourite guacamole. There are endless uses for this fruit.

The fruit should be clipped from the tree with part of the stem attached. Do not refrigerate until the fruit has softened.

Expected Yield:

A 7 year old grafted tree can bear in excess of 200 fruit annually. That should keep you and the extended family happy 😊

Enjoy your new trees – they will provide years of fruitful pleasure.