

Persea americana

[Avocado trees](#) need excellent drainage and full sun is preferred. Grown throughout the tropics and subtropics, it is important to choose more cold tolerant varieties for cooler areas of Brevard County. Consult the chart below.

Avocado trees need adequate space for growth (15-25' apart), maximum exposure to sunlight, good air circulation, and adequate drainage.

If your yard stays wet during the rainy season, achieve better drainage by backfilling the hole with coarse sand. You can also build a berm and plant your tree on it to allow for drainage.

See our ['proper plant installation' video](#) on our [Youtube channel](#).

Planting Instructions

Given good drainage, avocado trees are adapted to a wide range of soils.

Prepare the soil by adding 1 part organic matter—such as our [Rockledge Gardens Planting Mix](#)—to 1 part existing soil.

Add [Espoma Bio-Tone](#) to stimulate root growth for quicker establishment. The planting hole should be wider, but no deeper, than the root ball. When planted, the tree should be no higher or lower in the ground than it was in the pot.

Carefully remove the tree from its pot. If any roots are damaged, cut them off at the injury. If roots encircle more than one-third of the root ball, cut 3 vertical cuts around the rootball. If watered properly, this will not harm the tree. Prune any broken branches just beyond the collar, carefully place the tree into the hole and backfill. Form a 2-3" high ridge around the plant to serve as a reservoir when watering.

Watering

When temperatures are in the 80s, water your tree daily for the first two weeks. In cooler weather, water twice a week.

During periods of drought, water even mature trees weekly with an inch of water. Do not water Avocado trees with well water containing 2200 or more parts per million (ppm) salt.

Fertilization

After planting, wait 1 month before fertilizing. Then apply 1/2 pound (1 cup) per foot of tree height of [Sunniland Citrus Fertilizer](#) 2 times per year in March and September.

Spray with [Liquid Seaweed](#) at least twice a year in March and November to boost the immune system of the tree, making it more resistant to insect and fungal problems.

Apply [Key Plex](#) once per year in spring for the first few years, then twice per year when mature.

Never use "weed & feed" products near your tree!

Type

Avocados are mostly self-pollinating and bear fruit in 1-4 years, depending upon the size of the avocado tree at purchase.

Avocado trees are classified 'A' or 'B' type. An 'A' or 'B' type will produce by itself, but avocado trees produce heavier crops when an 'A' and a 'B' type are planted in close proximity.

Pests & Diseases

Good planting practices are the best steps for a healthy tree. Drought-stressed, badly planted, and improperly fertilized plants are more susceptible to pest and disease problems.

Anthracnose, small dark round spots on the leaves during the rainy season, is a common fungal disease. Left untreated, the disease will spread to the fruit as well. 2-3 weekly applications of [Dithane](#) should stop further spread.

The logo for Rockledge Gardens features the company name in a teal, serif font. A decorative teal swoosh underline is positioned beneath the word "Gardens".

Avocado Varieties **M = Mexican** **G = Guatemalan** **WI = West Indian**

Variety Name	Season	Size (ozs)	Color	Shape	Type	Cold tolerance	Notes
Brogdon M x WI	July 15-Sep 15	7-20	Purple to black	Oval to pear-shaped and pebbled	A/B	22°	Tree small to medium & moderately vigorous; moderately productive; very hardy variety but susceptible to anthracnose; creamy, delicious, rich, nutty flavor; very similar to Hass
Choquette G X WI	Nov 15-Feb 15	24-40	Dark green	Oval and smooth	A	26°	Medium-sized spreading tree; very productive (bears heavily in alternate years); fairly resistant to disease; mild flavor; 13% oil content
Day G x WI	Jul 15-Sep 15	8-16	Green	Pear-shaped and smooth	A	22-25°	Slender tree; very productive; fruit has a buttery consistency and a delicious, nutty flavor
Hall G x WI	Nov 15-Feb 15	20-30	Dark green	Pear-shaped and smooth	B	29°	Tree is hardy and very productive; subject to scab; 12-14% oil content; large & tasty; alternate but heavy bearer
Hass (Florida) G x M	Harvest peak in January		Black	Pear-shaped and pebbled	A	25°	Rich, nutty, buttery taste similar to Hass; close to 20% oil content; 80% of California avocados are Hass!
Lula G x M	Nov 15-Feb 15	16-24	Green	Round and smooth	A	25-28°	Tree tall, dense, broad, upright & prolific; rapid-growing; productive; bears when young; 12-16% oil content; former leading commercial variety
Marcus Pumpkin M x WI	Oct 1-Dec 1	30-48	Green	Round	B	25°	Very large fruit; moderate yield; very mild yet excellent flavor former commercial variety but better suited for residential planting
Monroe G x WI	Nov 15-Jan 15	26-36	Dark green	Round/oval and pebbled	B	26°	Consistent heavy bearer of large fruit; very good quality fruit with a nutty flavor; 10-14% oil content; tree growth more upright rather than spreading
Oro Negro ?	Nov-Jan	16-32	Black	Round/Oval and smooth	B	unknown	Probably a Monroe crossed with a Mexicana type, this new variety is rich and buttery with a creamy texture
Pollock WI	August-Sept	18-40	Green	Pear-shaped and smooth	B	28°	Thin-skinned; rich flavor; excellent quality; very vigorous tree; light production
Russell WI	July-August	24-40	Green	Long, smooth and club-shaped	A	28°	Excellent fruit quality; popular among Latin communities of South Florida; high yields
Simmonds WI	July-August	16-34	Green	Oval and smooth	A	28°	Good production; excellent eating quality
Winter Mexican M x WI	Oct 1-Dec 1	12-18	Dark green	Oval and rough	B	22-24°	Attractive spreading tree; very vigorous; heavy and regular bearer; resistant to scab; susceptible to anthracnose; up to 30% oil content

Mexican-type avocados new to Florida, all extremely cold hardy (we'll post more information on them as we get it)

Bacon M	Nov-Jan	8-14	Green	Oval and smooth	B	24°	Creamy; good quality taste with nutty aftertaste; thin-skinned and easy to peel; fruit yields to gentle pressure when ripe
Brazos Belle M	Oct-Nov	Large 4-5"	Black	Smooth and oval to pear-shaped	Self	14°	Delicious taste; creamy texture; high oil content; tree is a good producer
Fantastic M	July-August	8-14	Green	Smooth paper-thin skin	?	<10°	Grows like a weed! High oil content; great taste; delicious and creamy; paper-thin skin; eat skin & all; most cold hardy of all the avocados we sell
Joey M	Late Sept-Oct	Medium	Black	Egg-shaped and pebbled	?	<10°	High oil content; heavy producer; excellent flavor; heavy bearing tree
Lila M	Sept-Oct	Medium	Green	Squatty pear & pebbled	?	14°	Good quality taste; high oil content
Mexicola M	August-Oct	4-8	Purple black	Round to pear-shaped/shiny	A	18°	Tree tall, spreading and vigorous; delicious; highest quality flesh with high oil content; paper-thin skin; very cold hardy
Mexicola Grande M	Sept-Nov	4-12	Black	Smooth/shiny, long pear	A, Self	<20°	Not related to Mexicola at all; similar to Mexicola in taste, not as extreme as Hass; rich, nutty, excellent flavor; thin skin; small seed
Poncho M	July-August	Med-Lg	Lime green	Round/smooth	?	15°	Excellent quality; good producer