

Avocado

Persea americana · Laurel family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Evergreen perennial tree
MATURITY 3–5 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun,
sheltered from
wind



WATER
Regular, well-
drained — hates
wet feet



SOIL PH
6.0–6.5



SPACING
6–8m



DEPTH
as per pot, root
flare at soil level

01 Drainage is everything

Avocados are extremely sensitive to waterlogged soil — root rot is the number one killer. Plant slightly proud of grade on a mound if drainage is at all uncertain.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant with the root flare at or slightly above soil level, on a mound if drainage is marginal.
SOIL	Free-draining above all else; moderately fertile.
TIMING	Plant in spring in warm, frost-free zones.

04 Problems

- **Root rot (Phytophthora)** — the major risk; ensure sharp drainage above all else.
- **Wind damage** — brittle wood; shelter and stake young trees.
- **Fruit drop** — normal to a degree; heavy drop points to water stress or poor pollination.
- **Sunburn on bark** — young trunks; wrap or paint with white tree paint.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Native groundcovers

Comfrey

AVOID NEARBY

Dense underplanting near the trunk

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree.

03 Growing care

- Never let the tree sit in wet soil — err on the dry side over wet.
- Mulch well beyond the drip line, kept clear of the trunk.
- Stake and shelter young trees from wind — brittle branches snap easily.
- Feed lightly with a citrus/avocado-specific fertiliser through the growing season.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit doesn't ripen on the tree — pick at mature size then ripen off the tree over several days.
METHOD	Cut with a short stem attached, don't pull.
CURING	Ripen at room temperature, faster next to a banana.
STORAGE	Ripe fruit in the fridge a few days once soft.