

Variety	Race ¹	Season of maturity ²	Flower type	Fruit			Prod. ⁵	Scab susc. ⁶	Recom. use ⁷	
				wt (oz)	color ³	Cold tol. ⁴			H	C
Hall	GW	Nov. 15-Feb. 1	B	20-30	G	M	H	S	N	N
Taylor	GW	Nov. 15-Feb. 1	A	12-18	G	H	L	MS	Y	N
Lula	GW	Nov. 15-Feb. 15	A	14-24	G	H	H	S	N	N
Monroe	GW	Dec. 1-Feb. 15	A	24-40	G	M	H	MS	Y	Y
Kampong	G	Dec. 1-March 31	B	14-24	G	H	L	R	Y	N
Meya	G	Dec. 7-Feb. 28	A	10-16	G	H	L	R	Y	N
Reed	G	Dec. 14-March 7	A	8-18	G	M	H	R	Y	M
Brooks-late	GW	Jan. 14-March 7	A	10-22	G	H	H	R	M	M

1, Race, W: West Indian; G: Guatemalan; M: Mexican

2, Season of maturity may not correspond with legal maturity dates set by the Avocado Committee, which vary year to year.

3, Fruit color, G: green; P: purple; R: red

4, Cold tolerance, H: high; M: moderate; L: low

5, Production, H: high; M: moderate; L: low

6, Scab susceptibility, R: resistant; MS, moderately susceptible; S: susceptible

7, Recommended use, H: home planting; C: commercial; Y: yes; N: no; M, maybe

Spacing and pruning

Planting distances depend on soil type and fertility, current technology, and economic factors. In commercial groves, trees are planted from 15 to 25 ft (4.6 to 7.6 m) in rows and 25 to 30 ft (7.6 to 9.1 m) between rows. Dooryard trees should be planted 25 to 30 ft (7.6 to 9.1 m) away from buildings and other trees.

Formative pruning during the first two years may be desirable to encourage lateral growth and multiple framework branching. Commercially, after several years of production it is desirable to occasionally cut back the tops of the trees to 16 to 20 ft (4.9 to 6.1 m), to reduce spraying and harvesting costs and to reduce storm damage. This operation should be done soon after harvest for early varieties but after danger of frost has passed for late varieties. Severe topping and hedging (used to reduce canopy width) do not injure trees, but reduce production for one to several seasons.

Planned tree removal is an option that should be seriously considered for commercial plantings. Preliminary studies suggest that production on a per acre basis can be maintained or improved when selected trees are removed. This is because production of remaining trees in the orchard equals or exceeds yields of overcrowded trees.

Soils

The avocado does not tolerate flooding or poorly drained soils, but is adapted to many types of well-drained soils. Continuously wet or flooded conditions often result in decreased growth and yields, as well as nutrient deficiency symptoms. Under these conditions, trees are highly susceptible to root infection by *Phytophthora* fungi. Trees grow well and produce satisfactory yields in the sandy and limestone soils of Florida if maintained with a good fertilizer program.