

Avocados

(Family of Lauraceae)

The English name derives from the Spanish word abogado, Other countries use different names:-

France: Avocat (poire d'avocat)
Brazil: Abacate
Italy: Avocado
Peru: Patta
West Indies: Aguscate

Holland: Advokaat
Germany: Advocatbirne
Malaysia: Apukado
West Africa: Pear

There are only three ecological races which are recognized: Mexican, Guatemala and West Indian.

	<u>Skin</u>	<u>Oil%</u>	<u>Seed Size</u>	<u>Cold Tolerance</u>	<u>Salt Tolerance</u>
Mexican	Thin	High	Big	Yes	No
Guatemalan	Warty	Med.	Small	Med.	No
West Indian	Leathery	Low	Big	No	Yes

The Avocado is a native of the highlands of Mexico and Central America. It has been eaten there for perhaps 10,000 years.

Records show that Avocado was taken to Spain in 1601, to Jamaica in about 1650, to Mauritius in 1780 and to Asia in about 1850. The first record of Avocados in Florida dates back to 1833 and 1856 in California.

The major producers of Avocado are:- Mexico , USA , Brazil, Dominican Rep., Israel, South Africa, Spain.

Nowadays, Avocado is grown in practically all tropical and subtropical countries of the world, from altitude of 40 north to 40 south. The production and export of high quality Avocados are now dominated by Mexico, California, Florida, Israel, South Africa, Spain and Peru. There are at least a hundred avocado cultivators. They generally originate from superior seedlings.

"Fuerte" the most popular variety, is a Mexican x Guatemalan hybrid that was found by an American grower in Mexico in 1911.

"Hass" belongs to the Guatemalan race.

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