

# RECOMMENDED AVOCADOS FOR PLANTING IN THE HOME GARDEN

			Fruit Skin									
Cultivar	Comments	Parentage*	Ripe Color	Texture	Thickness	Fruit Quality	Fruit Flavor	Seed Size	Bearing Habit*	Flower Type	Cold Limit*	Mature Season*
Bacon	Upright tree growth can make harvesting difficult. Peel deteriorates if fruit left on tree too long.											
		Mexican	green	smooth	thin	good	sweet, mild	large	consistent	B	24°F	Nov-Mar
Duke	Not a commercial cultivar due to short season, loose seed, skin too thin for shipping. Valuable to the backyard grower for its agreeable flavor, good fruit size, wind and heat tolerance, and especially its maximum cold tolerance. Mostly used as rootstock.											
		Mexican	green	smooth	very thin	good	spicy	large	consistent	A	20°F	Sep-Oct
Fuerte	Fuerte blooms Feb-Apr. Was California's leading commercial cultivar due to its excellent fruit, long season, and some cold hardiness. Now largely replaced by the better-bearing Hass but may be worth a try where there is plenty of space for this very large tree.											
		Guatemalan x Mexican	green	leathery	thin	excellent	mild	medium	alternate	B	27°F	Nov-Mar
GEM	Seedling of Gwen selected by UCR researcher Gray Edward Martin. Fruit are produced on a semicompact, vase-shaped tree. The teardrop-shaped fruit are borne in clusters, typically in the interior of the tree protected from sunburn, the peel turns from green (when on the tree) to a dark burgundy/black when ready to eat.											
		Guatemalan	black	somewhat pebbly	thick	excellent	nutty	medium	somewhat alternating	B	27°F	Nov-Mar
Gwen	Patented in 1984 by UC Riverside. Small, upright tree takes little backyard space and usually bears early and heavily. Not productive everywhere. May need a pollinator. Very susceptible to perseia mite, wind, heat, cold, and dryness. Commercial season is delayed until April because of skin shriveling when ripened earlier.											
		mostly Guatemalan	green	small pebbly	medium	excellent	rich, nutty	medium	fairly consistent	A	30°F	Apr-late summer
Hass	Most common commercial cultivar. Comprises more than 80% of California acreage. Wide adaptability, except in cold, interior regions. High quality and long season appeal to backyard growers, if enough space is available for a large tree. Where summers are not too hot, fruit that stay on tree beyond July may develop undesirably strong flavor late in season. Susceptible to perseia mite.											
		mostly Guatemalan	black	pebbly	medium	excellent	rich, nutty	small-medium	alternate	A	30°F	Jan-Jul or year-round
Jim	Green thin-skinned avocados are fading commercially. Jim has advantages over the two old-time standards Bacon and Zutano. Jim has a longer season and better fruit quality than Zutano, better fruit set (in some places) than Bacon, and shorter trees than either of them. Jim may be useful where considering cold hardiness or a B-type flower pollinator is needed.											
		mostly Mexican	green	smooth	thin	very good	mild, spicy	medium	fairly consistent	B	24°F	Nov-Feb
Lamb Hass	Patented in 1996 by UC Riverside. Production higher than Hass on smaller compact trees. Continued testing is ongoing. Superior to Hass in tolerance to wind, heat, and perseia mite. Consumer taste tests rate fruit highly, but to connoisseurs, it is below Hass or Gwen excellence. Its cold hardiness is unknown but better than 30°F is not expected.											
		mostly Guatemalan	black	pebbly	medium	very good	fairly rich	medium	somewhat alternating	A	estimated 30°F	May-Nov
Mexicola	Extremely cold-hardy like Duke but noncommercial because of their skin, short season, too small a fruit. Mexicola's flavor preferred by some over that of the best commercial Guatemalans such as Hass											
		Mexican	purple	very smooth	very thin	good	anise-like	large	consistent	A	20°F	Aug-Sep

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Pinkerton	With cross-pollination (and sometimes without it), Pinkerton is a producer of superior fruit. Where the ocean moderates summer heat, fruit can hang on the tree well past April without fruit deterioration, as in Hass. Wide adaptaion but not northerly (zones 4 and 8). Low perseas mite tolerance. It's often large fruit become quite necked inland. The smallest seed of California commercial cultivars.											
		mostly Guatemalan	green	pebbly	medium	excellent	rich	small	usually consistent	A	30°F	Dec-Apr
Reed	A heavy producer of round fruit that become larger than commercially desirable. Large size encourages early picking, but in May flavor is usually bland. Rich flavor develops considerably later in its long season. Dubious for zones 3, 4, 7, and 8. Moderately tolerant to perseas mite.											
		Guatemalan	green	fairly smooth	thick	excellent	rich	medium	very consistent	A	30°F	May-Nov
SirPrize	Patented in 1996 by UC Riverside. Fruit are like large, black, rough Fuerte. Earlier than Hass. Better eating quality and longer than other early maturers, except the alternate-bearing Fuerte. Both traits are desirable for home gardeners. Black skin is commercially advantageous. Mature fruit easily identifiable. Tends to be a light producer. Young fruit have distinct ridge. So far, moderate tolerance to wind and perseas mites. Cold hardiness is hoped for. Continued ongoing testing.											
		Mexican x Guatemalan	black	leathery	thin	excellent	nutty rich	small	somewhat alternating	B		Nov-Mar
Stewart	Of cultivars suited to colder regions only Stewart receives top rating for total fruit quality, medium size, very attractive appearance, small seed for its season, flesh neither nutty nor spicy, yet delicious, and superior peeling in spite of thin skin. Production is good in some locations and inferior in others.											
		mostly Mexican	purple	leathery	thin	excellent	flavorful	medium	variable	A	25°F	Oct-Dec
Wurtz	Small tree (8-10 ft) ideal for small gardens or large containers. May also be sold as Dwarf, Littlecado, or Minicado. Only real virtue is unique weeping-umbrella short tree.											
		Guatemalan	green	pebbly	medium	good	mild	large	alternating	A	31°F	May-Aug
Zutano	Upright tree growth can make harvesting difficult. Mediocre flavor. Pear-shaped fruit. Newer cultivars are better.											
		Mexican	green	smooth	thin	mediocre	watery	large	consistent	B	24°F	Oct-Feb

**Notes:**

Guatemalan or Mexican, the two avocado races adapted to California

The majority of avocado trees are alternate bearing, meaning that they bear a heavy crop one year and a sparse crop the next (Lovett 2010); however, there are varietal differences. For the home gardener with only one tree giving fruit in a given season, alternation is undesirable. All cultivars listed in the table bear fruit in approximately 3 years.

The approximate tolerance of established tree 3 years or older to cold temperatures. Tolerance varies with crop size, degree of hardening off before the freeze, any weakness, length of time at that temperature, and other factors.

Mature season can vary with factors affecting time of bloom and with seasonal weather, especially mean temperature. Usually the earlier the maturation, the shorter the time until the fruit drips or breaks down, but this depends partly on mean temperature also. Flavor improves as fruit remains on the tree after it has reached palatable maturity; however, eventually, as noted for Hass, flavor may deteriorate. Additionally, cultural practices such as watering, pruning, and fertilizer will influence crop size and seasonality.