

Choquette

A selection from Miami, Florida where it was propagated as a commercial cultivar. It is a heavy bearer with large fruits of good eating quality. The flower has a type A variety characteristics.



Growth habit, fruit characteristics, Altitudes, maturity, yield

Fruits of Choquette variety

Sharwil

Growth habit It has a medium-sized fruit with a small seed, rough skin which ripens green, resembling Fuerte, but is slightly more oval in shape. The fruit has greenish-yellow flesh with a rich, nutty flavor and high oil content of 20–24%. **Maturity, yield potential**, It is a major commercial variety in Hawaii and Australia.

Uses

Avocado is mainly grown for fresh market but there is an increasing demand from pharmaceutical, cosmetic and vegetable oil industries. The fruit is highly nutritious and has an oil content of between 20 and 30 percent. The protein and mineral contents are highest of any fruit and is an excellent source of vitamins A and B with traces of C, D and E.



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AVOCADO VARIETIES



Please change to a clear-

er photo of bearing tree and include fruits of two main variety as insets

Introduction

Avocado (*Persea americana* L.) in the family Lauraceae is a sub-tropical tree native to South Central Mexico. It is believed to have been introduced in Kenya by the Portuguese between 16th and 18th centuries. The three cultivated races with distinct characteristics and growing conditions are Mexican, Guatemalan and West Indian. Mexican race varieties include Fuerte, Puebla and Teague while those in Guatemalan race are Hass and Reed among others. West Indian race varieties include Hardy and Simmonds. Mexican and Guatemalan races perform best from midlands to highlands while West Indian races do well in humid lowlands below 800m a.s.l. Avocado varieties are also classified into types A and B depending on flowering pattern. The commonly grown varieties include Hass and Fuerte mainly for export while Puebla is for local market and rootstock. Avocado is highly nutritious and is mainly eaten raw but can be processed into various products for food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries.

Description of avocado plant

Avocado tree grows to about 20m and has alternately arranged leaves which are 12–25cm long. The flowers are inconspicuous, greenish-yellow and 5–10mm wide.



Inflorescence and leaves of avocado

The pear-shaped fruit is 7–20 cm long, weighs between 100-1,000g and has a large central seed which is 5–6.4 cm long depending on variety.



Pear-shaped fruit with a large central seed

Propagation

Recommended method of propagation is by grafting to ensure quality seedlings. Planting material should be sourced from registered nurseries.

Climatic and Soil Requirements

- Avocado thrives best in sub-tropical and tropical climates
- Requires well distributed rainfall of not less than 1000 mm per annum
- Deep, well-aerated soils with good drainage and pH of 5.5-6.5 are ideal
- Water-logged soils favor development of root-rot disease
- Avoid saline soils and irrigation water
- Establish wind-breaks around orchard

Avocado Varieties

Hass



Ripe fruit of Hass variety

It



The tree grows to — height has upright growth habit and is a consistent bearer. The fruit is highly pebbled, pear-shaped, green at early stages and then turns dark purple on maturity. It matures in 8-9 months. It performs best in low-mid altitude areas

Yield:=====

Fuerte

is the most popular cultivar for export in many parts of the world. The tree grows to height of about 6m with spreading growth habit. The fruit is medium-sized, slightly pebbled, pear-shaped, ripens green and with very good flavor. The fruit-skin is thin, leathery and easy-to-peel. It matures in 6-8 months . The variety does well in medium to high altitude areas. YIELD

Insert a Fuerte photo

Figure 4: Fuerte fruit-skin ripens green

Puebla

The tree grows to a height of — and has spreading growth habit. The fruit is — in size, has deep maroon purple color with a smooth, glossy skin and good flavor. The seed is medium to large in size and conical in shape.

It matures 5-7 months. Yield —The fruits are sold

locally and used as root stocks.



Puebla fruit is deep maroon and smooth