


<b>Common name</b>	Avocado		
<b>Botanical name</b>	<i>Persea americana</i>		
<b>Summary:</b> (General comments about species, deciduous, varieties etc)			
<p>The avocado forms a very large evergreen tree up to 30m if grown from a seedling. Grafted trees to 10m High. Dark green leaves form a thick canopy with dense shade. The tree has perfect flowers (both male and female parts) which can be female in the morning and male in the afternoon or vice versa. Varieties are known as type A or B. In cooler climates, this crossover period is shared enabling a single tree to self-pollinate. Warmer climates will require a second tree of a different type. A temperamental tree when young, hardy once established. The fruit is rich in fat and protein.</p>			
<b>Likes</b> (summary)		<b>Doesn't like</b> (summary)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very well drained deep soil</li> <li>• Regular water</li> <li>• Chicken manure to improve soil quality and drainage</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water logging</li> <li>• Frost on flowering</li> <li>• Sunburn on newly exposed branch and trunk wood</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Hot afternoon sun</li> </ul>	
<b>Flowers in</b>	Prolific racemes on the ends of branches in spring	<b>Fruits in</b>	Summer - Autumn
<b>Care</b>			
Planting	Buy grafted plants certified free of <i>Phytophthora</i> root rot fungus, stake at planting as avocados have a shallow root system, plant in spring		
Pollination/ self-fertile, requires another tree	Bees and hoverflies. Self-fertile in cooler climates, pollinator tree required in warmer climates. Check with local nursery for guidance		
Pruning	Can be cut back extremely hard rejuvenating dormant buds, renovate in cooler seasons to avoid bark sunburn (or paint with whitewash). Maintain a low canopy for ease of harvesting.		
Disease and pest management	Few pests, possums enjoy the bark. Root rot from the <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> fungus. Buy quality stock, avoid water logging soils.		
Moisture, how much and when	Regular deep watering late spring to autumn (once a week/ more in extreme heat), do not let soil dry out. Do not let soil become waterlogged		
Feeding	High nitrogen NPK fertiliser every 3 months except winter, while establishing young trees. Older trees will require an annual feed.		
Harvesting	Ripen off the tree, will store on tree for a few months. Fruit stems will turn yellowish and wrinkle when ready to pick. Always cut from tree retaining the stem to avoid fruit rot.		

What to do when		 Prune	 Harvest	 Feed	 Pest / Disease
 Summer	Dec			•	•
	Jan		•	•	•
	Feb	•	•	•	•
 Autumn	March	•	•	•	•
	April	•	•	•	•
	May	•		•	•
 Winter	Jun	•			•
	Jul	•			•
	Aug	•			•
 Spring	Sep	•		•	•
	Oct			•	•
	Nov			•	•

*This is a rough guide only. Individual fruit tree care depends on the variety, the conditions in your garden and your personal preferences!*



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on tailored care for your fruit tree