

# Avocado variety guide: snack and guacamole

*Collector's inspiration*



**A comprehensive guide to avocado varieties by:**  
· flower type A or B · tree habit · cold hardiness ·  
· fruit shape and quality · origin · season ·

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## Collector's inspiration

Many gardeners who are eager to purchase their first avocado tree often wonder which variety to choose. Most people are familiar with two primary classifications commonly found in grocery stores:

### **...Small & Black or Large & Green...**

Frequently, we hear customers ask, "Do you have the one with small black fruit and bumpy skin?" or "I have avocado with very large green fruit, what variety is it?" What they may not realize is that this basic (but practical!) classification doesn't encompass all the wonderful qualities avocados have to offer. There are numerous hybrids in cultivation, and once you plant your first tree and taste the REAL fruit (not from the grocery store), you'll be eager to explore other varieties. It's a guarantee! While it's true that avocado fruit can vary in "butter" content, most superior varieties are equally delicious. Or perhaps we should say they are so versatile and distinct in taste that you'll start building your collection of these trees, much like fruit enthusiasts do with mango varieties.

**How to select the perfect variety?  
Is there more than "black" or "green" to it?**



In this guide we aim to provide you with a comprehensive overview of avocado varieties and their differences. This will enable you to savor each one and make the most of the incredible array of tastes and textures they offer. Keep in mind that every garden has unique requirements based on climate, temperature, and property size. These factors must be considered before planning your avocado garden. Additionally, many gardeners may wonder about Type A vs Type B classifications and whether they need more than one tree to yield fruit. You'll find all the answers in this Avocado Variety Guide.

# Basic classification of avocados

Avocado varieties have a wide range of characteristics, encompassing variations in flavor, texture, and appearance. It is essential to understand that the classification of avocados into the defined types mentioned below provides a simplified framework. In reality, some hybrids may possess attributes that place them in between these established categories.

**1. By flowering pattern** and pollination behavior: Type A and Type B.

**2. By origin:** Mexican, Guatemalan, and West Indian (along with many hybrids).

**3. By fruit appearance, texture and taste:** "Guacamole" Avocado ("Smooth green skin") and "Snack" Avocado ("California" or "Hass" type).

**4. By growth habit:** full size trees, free branching or upright, semi-dwarf low growing, and dwarf ("condo avocados").

**5. By cold hardiness:** Cold sensitive (requiring frost-free conditions), cold tolerant (able to withstand light frost), and cold hardy (capable of enduring some hard freezes once established).

**6. By ripening season:** Early or Spring (March-June), Mid or Summer (July-September), and Late or Fall-Winter (October-February).

Understanding these classifications will help you make informed choices when selecting avocado varieties for your garden or culinary preferences.

