

Varieties of Avocado

1. Hass:

- **Description:** The most popular variety worldwide, known for its rich taste, creamy texture, and long shelf life. It has a pebbly, dark green to black skin.
- **Best Use:** Fresh consumption, guacamole, and export.

2. Fuerte:

- **Description:** A pear-shaped avocado with smooth, green skin and creamy flesh. It has a mild flavor and is known for its resilience in colder climates.
- **Best Use:** Fresh consumption and salads.

3. Ettinger:

- **Description:** A green-skinned variety with a smooth texture and mild taste. It is known for its large size and relatively low oil content.
- **Best Use:** Fresh consumption.

4. Pinkerton:

- **Description:** A medium-to-large variety with a long shape, rough green skin, and a high oil content. It is prized for its productivity and quality.
- **Best Use:** Fresh consumption and oil extraction.

5. Reed:

- **Description:** A round, green-skinned variety with smooth, creamy flesh. It is typically larger than Hass and has a rich flavor.
- **Best Use:** Fresh consumption and salads.

Best Acceptable Quality Variety

● Hass Avocado:

- **Why Best?** Hass is widely regarded as the best quality variety due to its excellent flavor, high oil content, and long shelf life. It is the most popular variety globally, especially in export markets. Hass trees are also more productive and have a longer harvesting season compared to other varieties.

Planting Near Swamping Ground

● Not Recommended:

- Avocado trees prefer well-drained soils and are sensitive to waterlogging. Planting near a swamping ground may increase the risk of root rot, which is detrimental to avocado trees. For water accessibility, it's better to install a

controlled irrigation system that provides consistent moisture without risking waterlogging.

Cross-Planting with Avocado Trees

- **Possible Crops:**

- **Legumes:** Crops like beans or peas can be planted between young avocado trees. These legumes fix nitrogen in the soil, improving fertility.
- **Cover Crops:** Cover crops like clover or alfalfa can be used to prevent soil erosion and add organic matter to the soil.
- **Short-Term Crops:** Vegetables such as lettuce or spinach, which have short growth cycles, can be planted between young avocado trees, especially in the early years when the trees are small and do not occupy much space.

- **Considerations:**

- Ensure that the intercrops do not compete with the avocado trees for nutrients, water, or sunlight, especially as the avocado trees mature.

Factors That May Prevent Plant Survival at Early Stages

1. **Poor Soil Drainage:**

- Waterlogged soil can lead to root rot, which is a common cause of avocado plant failure.

2. **Pests and Diseases:**

- Early infestations by pests like aphids or diseases such as Phytophthora root rot can severely impact young plants.

3. **Insufficient Watering:**

- Young avocado plants need consistent watering to establish their root systems. Both under-watering and over-watering can be harmful.

4. **Frost or Extreme Temperatures:**

- Avocado seedlings are sensitive to frost and extreme heat. Frost can kill young plants, while excessive heat can cause dehydration and stress.

5. **Nutrient Deficiency:**

- Lack of essential nutrients, especially nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, can stunt growth and make the plants more susceptible to disease.

6. **Improper Planting Depth:**

- Planting the avocado too deep or too shallow can affect root establishment and overall plant health. The root ball should be level with the soil surface.

By addressing these factors, one can improve the chances of success in establishing a healthy avocado orchard.