

## Avocados

The avocado (*Persea americana*) is a native of Central America and the West Indies. They require good site selection, excellent drainage and a pH of approximately 5.0 - 5.5.

With avocados, fertiliser practices vary throughout the world. In conditions in Queensland and New South Wales, regular applications of fertiliser such as Cal-banana Plus Zinc and Boron (12-1-14+TE) or Prolific Blue AN Compound fertiliser (12-5-14+TE) are recommended. For mature trees apply Cal-banana plus Zinc and Boron at 1kg/tree (5m canopy diameter). Apply 3 to 4 applications from early summer to autumn. Alternately, Prolific Blue AN can be applied for mature trees at 285 gm /tree (with a 6 meter canopy) in April with a further 1,250 gm after fruit drop and the same rate 6 weeks later. Apply less with smaller diameter younger trees.

Fertiliser is applied in a circular pattern under the drip zone of the tree but no closer than 30% of the canopy radius to the tree. The width of the band of fertiliser should be the same as the radius of the tree measured beyond the canopy.

Amgrow Specialty also has a range of N-P-K+TE soluble fertilisers called Nutrafeed that can be used through fertigation. Nutrafeed 4 (19-2-17+TE) or Nutrafeed Kestrel (14.5-5-23) are suitable products.

Generally, avocados have a relatively heavy zinc and boron requirement, although individual soil/leaf tests would have to be conducted in order to recommend exact application amounts. As a general rule for a deficiency of boron it can be applied as Dissolvabor at 100gm/100L of water as a foliar application before flowering. Zinc can be applied as Zinc Sulphate Heptahydrate at 25gm/square meter of canopy cover around the drip line of each tree in a 30 cm wide band. Zinc should be applied in early summer where a deficiency is present.

Amgrow Specialty are able to carry out soil and leaf tests for you if required and based on the results gained can then specifically formulate a fertiliser to meet your exact requirements.