

Planting Recommendations for Avocado Trees

Make sure your avocado trees get the best possible start...

Avocado clonal trees grow from a crown of roots originating from a relatively short stem close to the surface of the soil. In contrast, avocado seedling trees have a central taproot system. When handling clonal trees: (1) never lift or carry them by the trunk or stake, and (2) always lower the tree into the planting hole prior to cutting the planter bag.

For all trees, follow these recommended steps prior to planting:

1. Ensure the trees are well watered.
2. Keep trees upright and out of direct sunlight to prevent sunburn to the leaves and stems.
3. Paint the stems with water based paint diluted with 50% water, from the soil level to the first leaves to minimise sunburn. This should be a light coating of paint to act like a sunscreen only.
4. Prepare the soil by ensuring it is well ripped to a depth of a minimum of 60 cm.
5. Ensure the soil is well drained.
6. Mound soil to 40-50 cm in heavier soil areas prone to water logging and *Phytophthora* root rot disease.
7. Incorporate adequate soil amendments, based on your soil analyses and recommendations from consultants.
8. Dig a hole 60x60x60cm.
9. Backfill with topsoil, irrigate and allow soil to settle.
10. Water the planting basins 48 hours before planting.

11. Adjust the depth of the hole so that the upper surface of the tree ball will be just even with the surrounding ground when the tree is lowered into it.

For all trees, follow these recommended steps at planting:

1. Lower the tree into the hole.
2. Cut the bag along the length and base on one side.
3. Place tree carefully into the centre of the hole and gently remove the bag by avoiding any damage to the root system. Inspect the roots to ensure they are healthy with actively growing tips. Discard the bag.
4. Do not plant too deeply as this may cause collar rot. Do not plant at too shallow a depth either, as this may expose the root system.
5. Backfill the hole with loose soil. Ensure there are no large clods around the root system.
6. Gently tamp the loose soil.
7. Irrigate well immediately after planting as this helps to bring the soil into close contact with the root system.
8. Stake the tree, if necessary. Take care not to push the stake through the root ball.
9. Make sure each tree is well protected with an individual shelter.
10. Care after planting is as per the Grower's Manual published by the NZAAGA.

For further information on site preparation and planting please log in to the Avocado Industry Council website:-

http://industry.nzavocado.co.nz/industry/industry_welcome.csn

MORE INFORMATION:

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