



Avocado

Avocado is the fastest growing agriculture industry in north Queensland. Large areas of new plantings have increased avocado production to more than 13,000 tonnes a year. As young orchards develop and reach peak maturity in the coming years, rapid production growth is forecast.

Significant improvement in all aspects of the avocado supply chain in recent years has supported growth in the avocado industry. High levels of farm management, meticulous post-harvest handling and storage ensure consistent high quality fruit.

Less than 100 growers account for the bulk of avocado production in north Queensland, with around 1,000 hectares planted. Yields vary depending on variety, plant growth and pollination and can average over 20 tonnes per hectare.

Two main avocado varieties are grown in north Queensland, Hass and Shepard. Shepard avocados are only grown in north Queensland and are pear shaped. They have a smooth and glossy green skin, nutty flavour and buttery texture. Hass avocados are oval shaped, black when ripe and have a distinctive pebbly skin. They have a creamy texture and rich taste.

In north Queensland, avocado harvesting commences in February and extends throughout the warm dry months until June. Shepard avocados are the first to ripen followed by Hass avocados which typically commence harvest in April. Peak avocado production in north Queensland is counter-seasonal to southern Australia.

SEASONAL AVAILABILITY

	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Shepard												
Hass												

Avocado fruit is typically harvested within one to two months of maturity. Mature fruit do not ripen and soften on the tree allowing some flexibility in the harvest schedule. Fruit may be harvested in several lots according to size. Storage time for avocados varies with variety. Hard green mature Hass avocados may be stored up to four weeks, while Shepard avocados may be stored up to 2 weeks.

Avocados Australia is the peak industry body for Australia's avocado growers.

For more information visit: www.avocado.org.au

