Avocado Cultural Requirements  For successful fruit production the trees should be grown in the ground with well drained soil, in sunny, wind-free locations. Do not plant a new avocado tree in a space where an old tree died as there may be disease in the soil. If you have heavy clay soil try planting your avocado tree in a 12”-18” tall raised bed. Avocados in containers can make attractive foliage plants indoors.

Water  In containers, avocados need consistent and frequent watering. Avocados in the ground prefer infrequent, deep root watering. It is best to allow trees to dry out somewhat before you apply water again. This can help prevent root rot. A soil moisture meter can be a helpful tool for determining when your tree needs water. To help retain soil moisture and improve soil quality, apply a 3” to 4” layer of mulch in spring and fall, under the canopy of the tree. Keep mulch at least 6” away from the trunk of the tree.

Cultivars  of avocados have two different kinds of flowers, “A flowers” and “B flowers”. Some cultivars have only “A flowers” and some have only “B flowers”. Production is best with cross-pollination between two cultivars, one with A flowers and one with B flowers. “A flowers” are receptive to pollen in the morning and shed pollen the following afternoon while “B flowers” are receptive to pollen in the afternoon, and shed pollen the following morning. Consequently from a technical standpoint, production is best with cross-pollination between two cultivars, one with A flowers and one with B flowers.

Fertilize  Avocado trees should be fertilized on a regular basis. Fertilize using well balanced citrus/avocado food. Avocado trees that have been fertilized year-round are more cold tolerant.

Frost Protection  Use frost protection such as Agribon if a freeze is forecast. Christmas lights or landscape lights can be added underneath the blanket for more frost protection. Controlling the size of the tree for the home gardener is important in maintaining a reasonable shape to make frost protection possible.

Planting & Growing Instructions  Avocados have a very sensitive root system and all care should be taken when removing the plant from the pot. Have your transplanting hole or container prepared in advance ready to receive the avocado tree. The planting hole should be three times the width of the root system and the same depth. Cut the pot on opposite sides to peel back the container from the root and soil mass. Do not disturb the root in any way! Plant above the grade, on a mound to the same level the tree was planted to in the container.

Pruning  Avocados can be maintained to any size with pinching and pruning. Frequent pinching of young trees is a good method to shape the tree, rather than heavy pruning. Prune to shape and control size on larger trees. Avocado trees can be susceptible to sunburn on the trunks of newly pruned trees so you can whitewash with interior white latex paint, diluted 50-50 with water, during periods of high summer heat and intense sunshine.