**Persea americana**

**Common name:**
Avocado,

**Palatability:**
Some varieties eaten occasionally without causing ill-effects.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Moderate risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to sheep, cattle, horses, pigs, and birds,

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Persin, a monoglycerid.,

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Severe mastitis, and oedema,
. Dyspnoea and coughing,
. Oedema of the head, neck and brisket,
. Heart failure.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Loss of milk flow, mastitis,
. Sometimes death,
. Recovery takes several weeks.

**Treatment:**
See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Comments:**
. Not all commercial varieties are equally toxic, the Guatemalan variety of avocados is very toxic.
. The Mexican variety is not so toxic. The Haas and Reed varieties - good commercial varieties, do not seem to cause a problem.
. Crushed leaves of the Mexican cultivars smell of aniseed, and have been used as incecticides.

. Trees grow to 18 metres or more, but are usually pruned to be short and spreading.
. An evergreen tree with alternate dark green leaves, glossy on the upper surface and white/woolly below.
. Many small pale green/yellow flowers in racemes near the branch tips in early spring; there are no petals as such, but many stamens.
. Fruit is pear shaped, ripening to green to purple depending on the variety.
. The single seed is large and hard, enclosed in a papery seed coat.
. The stored food in avocados is fat rather than sugar or starch, and dogs enjoy the fruit.
. The fruit may hang on the tree for a long time before deteriorating.
. This tree can only be grown in tropical or sub-tropical climates.
. Leaves, bark, fruit and seeds have been reported to be toxic.

![Persea americana](Image)

**Picture:** *Persea americana*
Steve Peruch, Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.

**References:**

Information included in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.