

# AVOCADO ROOTSTOCK TRIAL

## What?

Cal Poly's Horticulture and Crop Science Department is facilitating an avocado rootstock trial located on Radio Tower with the involvement of the University of California, Riverside (UCR) as well as avocado growers throughout California. The goal is to find a rootstock that is significantly resistant to the soilborne pathogen, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, which causes root rot in avocado trees. The site on Radio Tower was best suited for the trial considering the pathogen is already present in the soil and has infected many trees. Which is why the infected trees were removed.



## Why?

California is the country's leading state in avocado production. In 2019, CA alone produced 109 tons of avocados. Seeing the value to the CA avocado industry, it is important to maintain and possibly increase production. Which is why this trial has commenced. The *Phytophthora cinnamomi* pathogen is what causes the root rot disease in avocado trees. This disease will damage the the root system and its ability to take up nutrients and water which then causes decline in fruit. There is no cure for the disease. The best cultural method is finding a variety that is resistant to the pathogen.



## How?

The rootstock trial was possible through the donations of several avocado growers and supporters. Several growers even offered rootstocks of their own to be part of the trial. Different people and groups may be interested in the end results for different reasons. Growers may be interested in finding what rootstock is most resistant to the pathogen in order to increase yield with the pathogen still being present in the soil. While pathologists would like to learn more about the actual resistance of the pathogen.

Read more  
on it from  
article in Ag  
Circle Blog!



Questions? Please contact the Horticulture and Crop Science Department.