

The Sader declares avocado pest-free zones in three municipalities of Michoacan and one in Jalisco.

The recognition as a free zone allows producers to commercialize the fruit without phytosanitary restrictions.



The municipalities of Charo, Nuevo Urecho, and Tangancícuaro of Michoacán, and Quitupan, Jalisco, were declared by the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader), as a zone free of large screwworm of avocado seed (*Heilipus lauri*), small screwworm of avocado seed (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*), seed moth (*Stenoma catenifer*).

The regions were declared after the technicians of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) confirmed the absence of the pests based on the results of the sampling performed according to official standards NOM-066-FITO-2002 for phytosanitary handling and movement of avocado and NOM-069-FITO-1995 about the establishment and recognition of pests free zones.

According to the declaration published in the Federal Official Gazette (DOF), to keep the recognition as an area free of these avocado pests, producers must apply the phytosanitary measures provided in Article 107 of the Federal Plant Health Law Regulations.

The recognition as a free zone allows producers to easily move their product and place it under highest competitiveness conditions in Mexican and foreign markets.

If control actions are not performed, these pests damage the fruit, because the larvae feed with pulp and seed, which can cause up to 90% in losses.

In order to protect the surface established for avocado farming in the country, the Senasica performs a national campaign against large and small screwworm of avocado seed, as well as moth in the States of Chiapas, Colima, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, Nuevo León, State of Mexico, Hidalgo, and Veracruz, in order to keep free zones and improve the status of regions under control.

According to the data of the Agricultural and Livestock Information System (SIAP) of the Sader, Michoacán and Jalisco are the states with the largest avocado production —with over 80% of the value of what is produced in Mexico— followed by the State of Mexico, Nayarit, and Morelos.

The agreement signed by the Head of the Sader, Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, enters into effect the day after its publication in the DOF and will be valid for 24 months after said date, in accordance with the provisions of last paragraph of Article 106 of the Federal Plant Health Law Regulations.