

# Regulated avocado pests

Regulated pests that limit the marketing of avocado are: the avocado branch borer (*Copturus aguacatae*), whose damage causes the branches to break easily; the small avocado bone borer (*Conotrachelus perseae* and *C. aguacatae*); the large avocado bone borer (*Heilipus lauri*); and the bone drilling moth (*Stenomoma catenifer*), which cause damage to the fruit when the larvae feed from the pulp and pit. Such infestation affects crop yield and can cause up to 90 % of losses if no control actions are taken.

Therefore, the *National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality* (SENASICA), carries out the National Campaign to fight these pests in the states of Chiapas, Colima, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, Nuevo León, State of Mexico, Hidalgo and Veracruz, aiming to preserve the zones as pest-free and improve the status of controlled zones.

It is important to mention that 'pest-free zones' have allowed to reduce production costs intended for the management of regulated pests, to improve the price of avocado and to expand the market thus, positioning Mexico as the main exporter worldwide. This activity is carried out based on the requirements or working plans of the importing country. Exports positively impact the economy of more than 13,000 avocado producers.

Mexican avocados are currently marketed in more than 30 international markets, among which the following stand out due to their economic value: United States, Japan, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, France, Guatemala, Spain, China, the Netherlands, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, Singapore and Belgium.