

The Secretariat of Agriculture recognizes the absence of avocado tree pests in Jalisco and Nayarit municipalities

The producer may gain access to more competitive national and international markets.



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development declared that four municipalities of Jalisco and Nayarit are zones free of the avocado seed weevil (*Heilipus lauri*), small avocado seed weevil (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and the avocado fruit borer (*Stenoma catenifer*).

These two agreements, published in the Federal Official Gazette (DOF), raise the phytosanitary status of the Chiquilistlán and Tepatitlán de Morelos municipalities in Jalisco, and of Ahuacatlán and Ixtlán del Río in Nayarit, for the benefit of avocado producers that can now gain access to more competitive national and international markets.

This recognition is the product of the joint work between the National Service of Food Safety and Agriculture Quality (Senasica) and producers, to comply with the official standards NOM-066-FITO-2002 for phytosanitary management and mobilization of avocado, and NOM-069-FITO-1995 regarding the establishment and recognition of pest-free zones.

The technicians of the Secretariat of Agriculture agency verified the absence of the pests based on the results of sampling in specific geographic areas.

It is worth mentioning that producers must keep applying the phytosanitary measures established in standards in order to prevent the region from losing its status as a free zone.

The presence of avocado tree pests damages the fruit since the larvae feed off the pulp and seed, which can cause up to 90% of losses to the production, and its presence entails restrictions to move and trade the fruit.

Mexico is the top avocado producer and exporter in the world, with 175,939 cultivated hectares and a production of more than 2,184,000 annual tons; Jalisco (201,804 tons) and Nayarit (57,363 tons) rank second and fourth in annual production in Mexico, respectively.