

The Secretariat of Agriculture recognizes avocado borer pest free areas in Michoacán, Jalisco, Nayarit, and Guerrero

The technicians from the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) verified the absence of avocado borer pests and issued the corresponding certification of pest free area.



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development declared eight municipalities from Michoacán, Jalisco, Nayarit, and Guerrero as areas free of the big avocado seed borer (*Heilipus laun*), small avocado seed borer (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and the avocado seed moth (*Stenomoma catenifer*).

The declaration published in the Federal Official Gazette (DOF) is highly positive for small and medium producers of avocado from the communities of Áporo, Senguio, and Lagunillas, from Michoacán, Chiquilistlán and Tepatitlán de Morelos, from Jalisco, Ahuacatlán and Ixtlán del Río, from Nayarit, and Taxco de Alarcón, from Guerrero.

This accord is valid for 24 months and enables producers from the recognized areas to place their fruits in ever more competitive markets, since pest free area recognition has been essential to position Mexico as the top avocado producer in the world (2.3 million annual metric tons).

Qualified technicians from the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) verified the absence of the aforementioned pests that when present limit the national mobilization and export of avocados.

With the support from the statal authorities, the SENASICA's General Directorate of Plant Health verified that producers are following the phytosanitary provisions of the NOM-066-FITO.2002 Mexican Official Standard and its specifications to handle and mobilize avocados, and of the NOM-069.FITO-1995 Mexican Official Standard to establish and recognize pest free areas.

This document recommends producers to maintain the sanitary works in their properties, to preserve the pest free status granted to the avocado crops in eight authorized municipalities.