

Secretariat of Agriculture endorses seven Mexican states as free of avocado pests

These pests feed on the pulp and bone, which can cause up to 90% losses, especially for small producers, said the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development



Michoacán is the main avocado producer in Mexico, with more than 1.8 million tons per year

The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development endorsed municipalities and agroecological zones in seven states of Mexico as regulated avocado pest-free zones, thereby

maintaining competitive advantages to move and market their production.

The agency indicated that technicians from the National Service for Agro-alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) confirmed the absence of the large avocado pit borer (*Heilipus lauri*), the small avocado pit borer (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and the bone-boring moth (*Stenomoma catenifer*) in 41 municipalities in Michoacán, 12 in Jalisco, five in Nayarit, five in Morelos, three in Puebla, three in the State of Mexico, and one in Guerrero.

Five agroecological regions of three municipalities of the State of Mexico, two zones of four municipalities of Guerrero and one agroecological region of a municipality of Morelos also revalidated their status as free areas. Producers may check the complete list of municipalities recognized as free zones in the following link

https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5677636&fecha=24/01/2023#gsc.tab=0v

The Agreement, published in the Federal Official Gazette (DOF), establishes that Senasica personnel verified the absence of pests based on the results of the samples that were collected in accordance with official standards NOM-066-FITO -2002 for the phytosanitary management and movement of avocado and NOM069-FITO-1995 on the establishment and recognition of pest-free zones.

This Agency noted that in order not to lose their status of as a pest-free zone, producers must apply the phytosanitary measures established in article 107 of the Federal Plant Health Law Regulations.

This recognition is valid for 24 months, a period in which the technicians of the Agriculture agency will evaluate sampling results so that, if the status is maintained, a new declaration as free zone is issued.

Senasica operates the National Campaign against Regulated Avocado Tree Pests in order to counter the large and small avocado pit borer, and the bone-boring moth in producing states, preserving free areas and improve the status of regions under control, which makes it possible to guarantee having a sufficient production for domestic supply.

These pests cause damage to fruits, since larvae feed on pulp and seeds, which may represent up to 90% in losses for avocado producers; in addition, their presence implies restrictions to move products within Mexico to be commercialized in domestic and international markets. Michoacán is the main avocado producer in Mexico, with more than 1.8 million tons per year, equivalent to 74% of national production; Jalisco harvests more than 256,000 tons; State of Mexico, 123,000; Nayarit, 75,000; Morelos, 52,000; Guerrero, 21,000, and Puebla, 18,000 tons.