



# California Avocado Tour

Date	Destination	Description
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	LAX accommodation	All tour participants arrive for tour departure – Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September.
Accommodation	LAX	Holiday Inn
Meals	LAX	No
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Ventura County	All participants to travel by pre-arranged bus to Ventura County approx. 1:30mins drive.
<i>Stop 1</i>	Brokaw Nursery	Brokaw Nursery is the largest avocado nursery in California. They produce about 250,000 trees per year and are currently expanding their production to nearly 400,000 trees. This nursery developed the current standard practices for propagating clonal avocado rootstocks.
<i>Stop 2</i>	Sal Dominguez	Sal is a grower (40 acres) and labor contractor. He is currently the largest grower of the Gem avocado variety; a selection released from the University of California breeding program. He practices high density planting and has developed very effective pruning strategies for managing trees planted at high density.
<i>Stop 3</i>	Pine Tree Ranch – Lower priority stop	A 55 acre farm owned by California Polytechnic University Pomona. The Californian Avocado Commission leases 11 acres of the farm to use as a demonstration grove. A rootstock trial with 30 different rootstocks (approximately 2 years old), some high density plantings, and plantings on berms vs flat ground.
Accommodation	Ventura	Best Western Hotel
Meals	Ventura	Breakfast / morning tea / lunch / afternoon tea / dinner
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Ventura - Temecula	Via bus is approximately 3 hours.
<i>Stop 1</i>	Mission Produce	Mission Produce is the largest avocado packer in the world. Their new packing facility in Oxnard is the second largest avocado packing house in the world (second only to their facility in Peru). It is a state of the art facility with cooling and ripening rooms. They are also the only packing house in California that actually washes fruit in water.

# California Avocado Tour

Stop 2	Associate Insectary	Associates Insectary is a grower-owned agricultural pest control cooperative based in Santa Paula, California focused on providing their grower-members with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) services. They provide pest consultations, beneficial insect releases and spray applications to protect over 6,000 acres of citrus and avocado groves owned by their Members. As a grower-owned cooperative, Associates operates on a break-even basis. Their insect rearing facilities are state of the art and something to be seen.
Accommodation	Temecula	Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott
Meals	Temecula	Morning tea / lunch / afternoon tea / dinner Note: Participants to provide their own breakfast.
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Temecula - LAX	Via bus is approximately 2 hours.
Stop 1	West Pak Avocados	West Pak Avocados has a test grove where they have some high density plantings as well as some different varieties planted. Gary Bender a retired University of California Farm Adviser can attend and discuss high density planting trials in Hass and Lamb Hass.
Stop 2	ACW	ACW is the largest organic avocado farm in California. The goal of owner Bill Artebury, is to make the farm completely self-sufficient. He drills and maintains his own water wells, has several megawatts of solar power installed on the farm, makes his own compost, and is setting up his own packing facility. It is quite the operation and is very impressive to see.
Stop 3	UC South Coast Field Station -Lower priority stop	A University of California research station. The research station houses the avocado germplasm collection, both scion material and rootstocks.
Accommodation	LAX	Holiday Inn
Meals	Temecula / LAX	Morning tea / lunch / afternoon tea / dinner Note: Participants to provide their own breakfast.
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	LAX - Medellín	Travel to WAC – Participant to organise.



*This event is part of the strategic levy investment project, Avocado industry development and extension (AV17005).*

*This project has been funded by Hort Innovation, using the Hort Innovation avocado research and development levy, co-investment from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.*