

**Drip irrigation; Citrus and avocado**

* **Drip irrigation**
  + Drip irrigation is a very efficient method of watering plants- 90% efficiency
  + Lower volume of water is used
  + Applies water directly and slowly to the soil -water is absorbed by the soil for access to the plant roots rather than running off or evaporating.
  + Water is only applied where it needed which is at the roots
  + Disease pressure may be less because plant foliage remains dry
  + Fertilizers can be applied efficiently through the drip system.
* Citrus
  + Things to Consider :
    - Site Selection, Varieties, Planting, Watering, Training, Pruning and Thinning, Fertilizing, Sanitation, Pests and Diseases, Harvesting and Storage
  + Site Selection-Citrus
    - Plant on south side of the house to increase heat units
  + Most citrus fruit freeze at 26F (lemons freeze at 29F)   Citrus trees freeze at 24F
  + Some citrus need warmer temperatures in the summer to ripen the fruit
  + Plant in a well-drained soil      Hard to do if you have a clay soil
  + Do not plant in a lawn that requires frequent shallow irrigation  – Grass competes for water and nitrogen
* Avocado
  + Best time to plant is during the Spring
  + Dig the hole twice as wide as the root ball
  + Plant at the same depth as the container
  + –  If the graft union is planted too low the scion may become infected with Phytophthora gummosis
  + –  If planted too high the roots might dry out
  + Use the native soil to backfill and tamp it in slightly with the shovel handle to get rid of air pockets
  + Hass avocado fruit freezes at 29 F
  + Fuerte avocado fruit freezes at 26 F
  + Mexican race of avocado (‘Mexicola’, ‘Stewart’) freezes at 24 F
  + Avocados do not do well in clay soil- they like drainage
  + Keep the leaf mulch on the ground
  + Keep the trees away from houses and pools – they drop leaves