

**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