



# Brokaw Nursery LLC

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February 23, 2009

Dear Customers and Friends,

At the end of January of this year we noticed a small group of trees in our certified nursery that exhibited symptoms of poor growth and off-color. Samples were taken and the fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, avocado root rot, was identified as the causal pathogen.

Our response at this point was to take the following actions:

- Seal the nursery growing grounds
- Notify the State Nursery Service
- Establish clean pathways to the greenhouse, effectively isolating it from the field
- Establish a sampling program for the entire nursery

By the end of February we will have the results from the additional samples. This will provide an initial determination of whether and to what extent the fungus may be present in other areas of the nursery. At that point we will be able to discuss the implications for each specific tree order. Testing will be ongoing through the growing season.

Options for those holding avocado tree orders for 2009 delivery include cancellation with refund of deposit, taking delivery or transferring the order to the 2010 crop of trees from our new nursery site (if available.) You may elect to await test results from the current crop over the course of this season before deciding between these alternatives.

We are contacting all holders of avocado tree orders for this 2009 crop either by phone and/or this letter. Of course we welcome your calls at any time and are prepared to respond to your questions, listen to concerns and discuss alternatives for 2009 avocado tree orders.

For more information on *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, please refer to the website:  
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r8100111.html>

This is a difficult letter to write; we had hoped that it would never be necessary. Please be assured that we will do our utmost to manage this situation with transparency and integrity.

Sincerely,

Brokaw Nursery LLC  
Rob Brokaw