



Brokaw Nursery LLC

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Brokaw Nursery, largest supplier of avocado trees for orchard planting in California, has discovered *Phytophthora cinnamomi* fungus (avocado root rot) in its nursery in Saticoy.

Avocado root rot at one time threatened the continuance of the avocado industry in California. In recent years, the use of root rot resistant clonal rootstocks and special techniques such as planting on mounds and precise irrigation, have made it possible to thrive the presence of the root rot fungus in many orchards. Some experts believe that *P. cinnamomi* is present, but often undetected, in a majority of avocado orchards in the State.

However, no grower would knowingly introduce root rot into an orchard or formerly unplanted ground that he believes is root rot free. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is persistent. There has been no case where, once established in an orchard, it has ever been eradicated. Accordingly, Brokaw Nursery has offered to accept cancellations or transfer orders to following years when the nursery will be situated in a different location. Fortunately, the presence of root rot was discovered before deliveries of the 2009 crop of avocado nursery trees giving customers the opportunity to make the choice.

Over 1400 soil tests have determined the infestation is not isolated but is found in various sections of the nursery. The source of contamination is unknown. Brokaw Nursery has been a State of California Certified grower of avocado nursery since the sanitation program was established and has followed all the State prescribed procedures to prevent *P. cinnamomi* including soil fumigation, isolation of trees, sanitizing incoming vehicles and foot traffic and heat treatment of seed.