

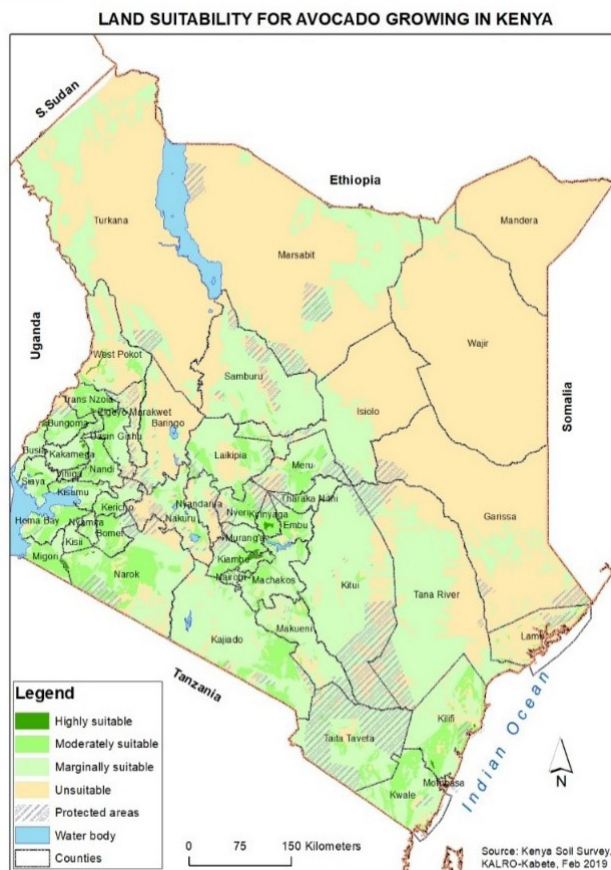


AVOCADO VARIETIES IN KENYA



Avocado Varieties in Kenya

Currently, the main commercial varieties of Avocado in Kenya are Hass, Fuerte and Pinkerton, with Fuerte and Puebla also recommended as rootstocks. Other varieties include Choquette jumbo type Entenger, G755, Simmond, Tonnage and Zutano. The main avocado growing areas in Kenya are shown in the map below. There are two types of avocado that flower at different times of the year (type A and B). Farmers are advised to mix both types in an orchard so that type A pollinates type B and vice versa.



Hass (Guatemalan race)

- **Note:** The most demanded variety of avocado for export.
- **Altitude:** 800-2100m asl - suited to cooler locations and performs well in a monoculture.
- **Flowering:** Peak flowering (October) peak harvest (June to September).
- **Maturity:** Matures 8-9 months after blossoming.
- **Size:** Produces medium sized oval shaped fruit (150 -300 g).
- **Fruit:** The fruit skin is green at early stages but browns on maturity. It is slightly pebbled, pear-shaped. The skin is thin and leathery.
- **Attributes:** High tolerance to anthracnose; good postharvest characteristics, also a recommended rootstock.



Hass green pebbled fruit, source:Wasilwa L.

Fuerte (a hybrid between Guatemalan and Mexican races)

- **Note:** Popular for export in many parts of the world; most preferred for oil extraction in Kenya.
- **Altitude:** 1500 – 2100 masl.
- **Flowering:** Type A, Peak flowering (September to October) with peak harvest (March to May).

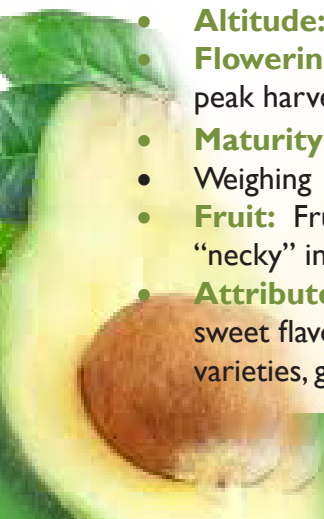
- **Maturity:** Fruit matures 6-8 months after flowering.
- **Size:** Produces a medium sized pear-shaped fruit (250–450 g).
- **Fruit:** Fruits are green, slightly pebbled, pear shaped with good flavour.
- **Attributes:** The fruit has a high oil content (20-40%) and is popular in preparation of edible avocado oil in Kenya.
- **Note:** More susceptible to postharvest fruit rots than Hass.



Fuerte green, slightly pebbled fruit (Courtesy Wasilwa L, KALRO)

Pinkerton

- **Note:** A semi-dwarf Guatemalan hybrid moderately spreading tree with a growth rate similar to “Hass”.
- **Altitude:** 800-2100 m asl.
- **Flowering:** Type A, flower and Peak flowering (October). peak harvest (June to September).
- **Maturity** 8–9 months after flowering.
- Weighing 230–425 g.
- **Fruit:** Fruit is pyriform in shape and can be excessively “necky” in cool climates, medium sized.
- **Attributes:** Has an attractive cream-coloured flesh and sweet flavour rich and nutty. Ripens more slowly than most varieties, giving it longer shelf-life.





Pinkerton pyriform shaped fruit (Courtesy Wasilwa L, KALRO)

Choquette (“Jumbo” Type)

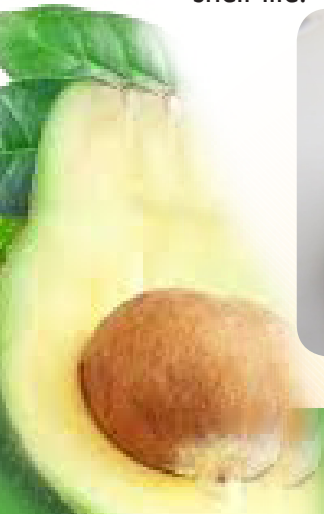
- **Note:** The trees have good disease resistance. It is a heavy bearer with fruits of good eating quality.
- **Altitude:** 800-2100 m asl
- **Flowering:** Type A flowers.
- **Maturity:** 9-12 months after flowering.
- **Size:** Large fruit weighing up to one kilogram.
- **Fruit:** Smooth glossy skin, watery flesh
- **Attributes:** Good eating variety with smooth flesh and a creamy, rich flavour. Recommended as a good rootstock .



Choquette large glossy skinned fruit (Courtesy, Wasilwa L., KALRO)

Enttinger

- **Note:** The tree is upright with a strong central leader and heavy bearer.
- **Altitude:** 800-2100 m asl.
- **Flowering:** Flower type B and cross pollinate with Hass and Reed.
- **Maturity:** 9-12 months after flowering.
- Weighing 170–570 g.
- **Fruit:** Fruit is pyriform in shape, cream to yellow flesh, small seed. Fruit is medium to large size.
- **Attributes:** Has an attractive cream yellow flesh and long shelf-life.





*Enttinger pyriform shaped small seed fruit
(Courtesy Wasilwa L, KALRO)*

Puebla (Mexican race; rootstock)

- **Note:** The seedlings are used as rootstocks for most cultivars.
- **Altitude:** 800-2100 m asl.
- **Flowering:** Type B.
- **Maturity** – It matures 5-7 months after flowering.
- **Size:** The fruit is medium in size.
- **Fruit:** Fruit is deep maroon purple, smooth, glossy and roundish, medium-sized conical seed.
- **Attributes:** oil content nearly 20% and has a good flavour.





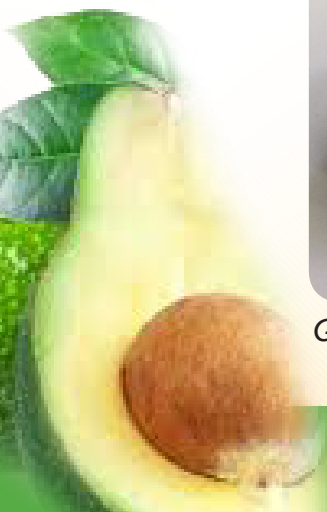
Puebla maroon purple, roundish fruit, (Courtesy Wasilwa L., KALRO)

G755 (Rootstock)

- **Note:** Suitable for rootstock. Resistant to Phytophthora.
- **Altitude:** 800-2100 m asl
- **Flowering:** Type A.
- **Maturity:** 5-7 months after flowering.
- **Size:** The fruit is medium in size.
- **Fruit:** Low in yield.
- **Attributes:** Good rootstock against root rot diseases.



G755 fruit, (Courtesy Wasilwa L., KALRO)



Simmonds

- **Note:** The tree is vigorous in growth to tall and slender tree.
- **Altitude:** 800-2100 m asl.
- **Flowering:** Type A.
- **Maturity:** 9-12 months after flowering.
- **Size:** medium to large fruits 15 cm length 300 to 700 g.
- **Fruit:** Pear shaped, light green fruit.
- **Attributes:** Cold tolerant, easily peeled from yellow flesh when ripe.



Simmonds pear shaped fruit, (Courtesy Wasilwa L., KALRO)

Tonnage

- **Note:** The mainly Guatemalan.
- **Altitude:** 800-2100 m asl.
- **Flowering:** Type B flowers.
- **Maturity:** 7-12 months after flowering.
- **Weight:** 300 to 700 g.
- **Fruit:** Large fruit with a pear shape and green skin.
- **Attributes:** Cold tolerant. Has excellent flavour.



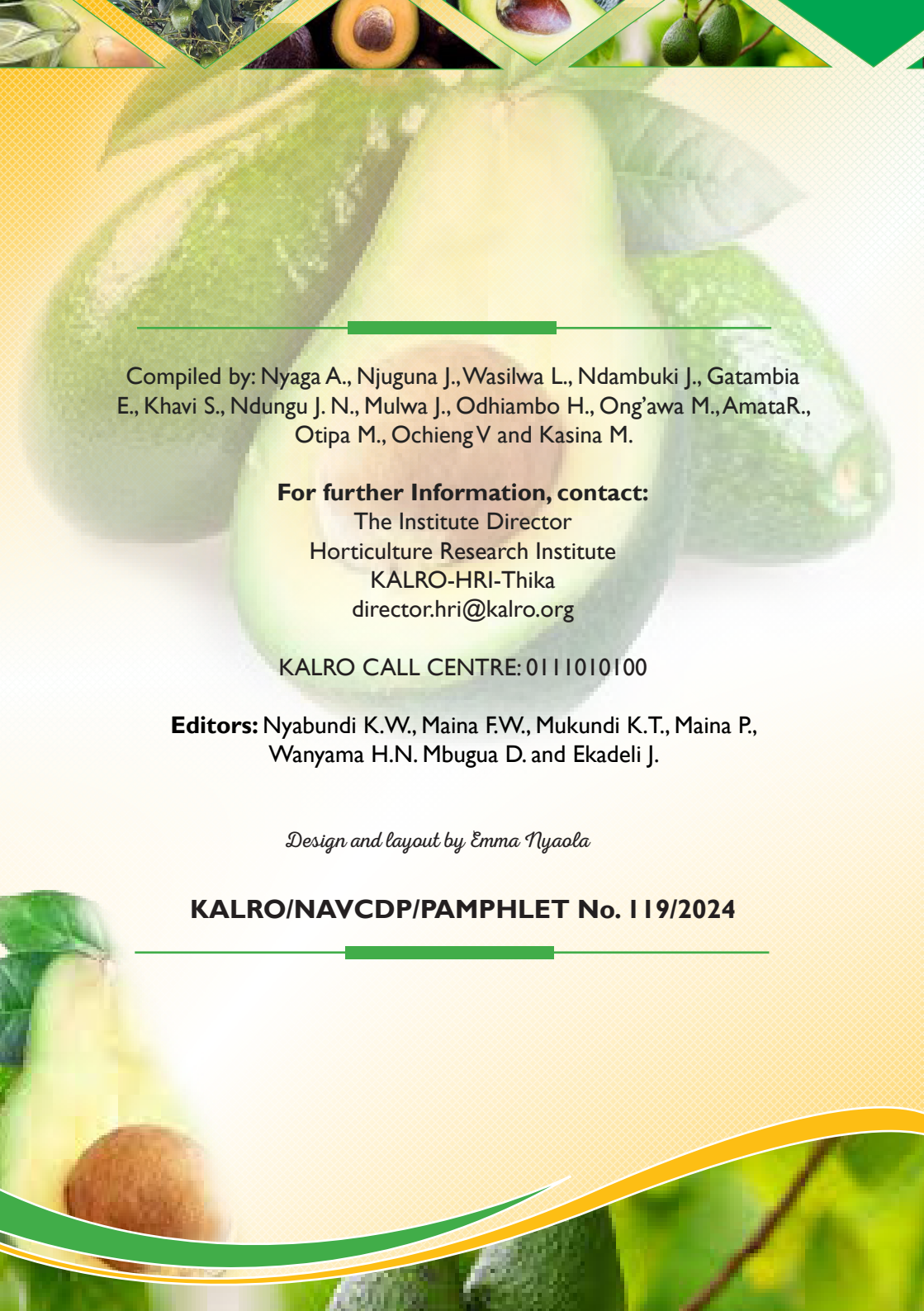
Tonnage large fruit, (Courtesy Lusike Wasilwa L., KALRO)

Zutano

- **Note:** The plant grows upright with rounded shape and spreading branches is a cold hardy consistent producing variety.
- **Altitude:** 800-2100 m asl.
- **Flowering:** Type B
- **Maturity** Takes 6-8 months after flowering
- **Size:** Large size 15 cm length
- **Fruit:** Pear shape and waxy bumps skin.
- **Attributes:** Low oil but high-water content. Used as a pollinator.



Zutano, (Courtesy Lusike Wasilwa L., KALRO)



Compiled by: Nyaga A., Njuguna J., Wasilwa L., Ndambuki J., Gatambia E., Khavi S., Ndungu J. N., Mulwa J., Odhiambo H., Ong'awa M., Amata R., Otipa M., Ochieng V and Kasina M.

For further Information, contact:

The Institute Director
Horticulture Research Institute
KALRO-HRI-Thika
director.hri@kalro.org

KALRO CALL CENTRE: 0111010100

Editors: Nyabundi K.W., Maina F.W., Mukundi K.T., Maina P., Wanyama H.N. Mbugua D. and Ekadeli J.

Design and layout by Emma Nyaola

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