

PICKING AND BOXING CALAVOS FOR THE PACKING HOUSE

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To Facilitate more efficient handling and transporting of calavos from the grove to the packing house, we are listing some suggestions and requests covering these particular operations in calavo's trip to market:

Pick only mature fruit. This can be ascertained by laboratory test at Central office.

Clip, don't carelessly pull fruit from the trees. The Grower's Supply Dept. carries an especially designed avocado clipper which may be purchased through your field representative or Central office.

See that the stem is clipped as close to its base as possible without cutting or bruising the neck of the fruit. A long stem is quite often knocked out while the fruit is in the field box on the way to the packing house.

Whenever possible, place the fruit in the field box in layers. This practice will utilize more cubic space in the box than a jumble arrangement. Protect from direct sun rays.

Be sure that all fruit after being placed in a box is below an imaginary line between the top edges of the cleats.

If it is necessary to place an additional cleat upon the permanent box cleat, a 6 d. nail is quite large enough and as large as should be used. A larger nail usually splits the box cleat when being removed.

One 6 d. nail will be sufficient and will lessen the time it takes to tear this excess lumber from the field box when it is emptied.

Care must be exercised when placing box tags on field boxes. The upper right corner just below the cleat is the standard position for the tag. Two small carpet tacks should be used to fasten the tag to the box; anything larger only mutilates the box and is entirely unnecessary. Names, variety, etc., on the tag must be plainly written or printed, as faint, indistinct marks require unnecessary time in deciphering and consequently are sources for possible error in copying information to our packing house records. Many of the distant truck shipments are received and checked at night and considerable trouble can be experienced by handling poorly marked boxes. The regular calavo box tags are available at all packing houses, and assembling depots.

When more than one variety is included in a box, place count of each on box tag. Complying with the above suggestions will materially aid in the handling efficiency of calavos.