

## Avocado—Definition and Correct Pronunciation

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Avocado (ah-voh-cah-doh), noun. Corrupted from **Mexican aguacate**, in turn from **Aztec ahuacatl**.

The pulpy fruit of tropical and subtropical species (**americana** and **drymifolia** mainly) of the botanical genus **Persea**, member of the Laurel family (Lauraceae). Botanically a one-seeded berry, ranging in weight from a few ounces to several pounds; in form from oblate to pyriform; in color from green to black; in external texture from smooth to warty. Characterized by oil content of the flesh, rich buttery flavor, and high nutritive value and palatability. Used mainly as a salad fruit and meat substitute. The tree is evergreen and ornamental.