

Weeds in Relation to Decline

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Citrus Experiment Station

The avocado tree appears to grow and produce fruit quite satisfactorily without being concerned as to weed growth such as Bermuda. There is at least one exception to this statement; a heavy growth of Bermuda around young trees does compete with the trees and Mr. Avocado Grower will do well to keep down this competition.

Also in soils with low permeability, a heavy mat of weed growth such as Bermuda helps to conserve the water. The conservation of water up to a certain point is desirable, but shallow soils underlain with a stratum through which water permeates slowly causes a perched water table in the root zone. The result is the death of roots and avocado tree decline. If one has this kind of a soil our advice is to do anything and everything to keep too much water from getting in. One part of the program is to get rid of Bermuda grass. This is a big job especially with a hoe; but if smudge oil and some spraying equipment are available, try oil. Care should be exercised in keeping it from getting on the leaves and bark of the trees. Ask the Farm Advisor how to apply it.

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