

# Avocado Seed to Avocado Tree

Watch your avocado seeds sprout

Grade Levels: ALL

Standard: 4-LS1-1, 2-LS2-2

Avocado season is in full swing in Southern California. Around this time of year, we see ripe avocados on the side of the road, falling off trees, and for sale in almost every grocery store. They are a delicious fruit (that's right, an avocado is a fruit) that we can use to make into guacamole, blend into smoothies, and even mash to create the popular avocado toast.

If you love avocados as much as we do, why not try sprouting an avocado seed (the large brown pit at the center) so you can grow an avocado tree of your own? As the weather warms up, this is a perfect time to get those avocado seeds prepped for being planted. This activity is quick, easy, and requires very little maintenance over time.

Before beginning this project, there are a few details we want to share with you:

1. If you live in California, local avocados stand the best chance at successfully bearing fruit in the future. This is because avocado seeds grow best in the same climate that their parent tree was grown in.
2. Avocado seeds take between 10-15 years to bear fruit, but don't let that discourage you from starting this project! Plant it now, and watch your seed grow as you do over the years.
3. While avocado trees can be grown in a pot indoors, they stand the best chance at bearing fruit if they are grown outdoors. So, if possible, get your plant outside once it has sprouted.
4. For indoor plants make sure you have a deep pot so the roots have plenty of space to extend out, and place it in a spot where it will get plenty of sunshine.

## Materials:

- Avocado seed (the pit)
- Clear cup
- 3 toothpicks
- Warm water

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## Instructions

1. Clean the fruit off the avocado seed
2. Soak the seed in water overnight
3. Stick 4 toothpicks in equal distances around the middle of the avocado seed following the overnight soak
4. Fill a clear cup with warm water (seeds need warm water to sprout so be sure to check the water temperature daily)
5. Balance the seed over the water with the widest part of the seed touching the water (Roots emerge from the widest part of the seed)
6. In 2-6 weeks your avocado seed should begin to sprout roots!

