

LENTICEL SPOTTING

WHAT IS IT?

Lenticel are small 1-5mm diameter brown spots that develop on the surface of the avocado skin. Lenticel develop after harvesting, especially during the rainy season. They can increase in size on the fruit in the days after harvest and start to form larger black areas referred to as spotting. Lenticel spotting does not affect the internal quality of the fruit. An avocado with lenticel will ripen as normal and as the skin color darkens, the lenticel will become less apparent.



WHAT CAUSES IT?

Lenticel is caused when the fruit has taken up water prior to harvest. The cells become turgid and filled with water. The swollen cells become more sensitive and brown quickly on the surface. Jostling and rubbing during transportation and packing can agitate the turgid cells causing them to burst and lenticel to develop more rapidly.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Steps are taken to prevent the development of lenticel, including delaying harvest after rain, cooling the fruit post-harvest and gentle handling methods. Allowing the fruit to “rest” after harvest before packing also aids reduction of lenticel development by allowing the turgid cells to dehydrate.



Does not cause internal damage



Fruit will ripen and taste normal