

LIMB RUB SCARS

WHAT IS IT?

Scars are brown or black spots on the skin of an avocado. They are an external defect that generally has no impact on the quality of the internal fruit. The severity of the scarring will determine the grade of the fruit for packing.



WHAT CAUSES IT?

Scarring is caused by the rubbing of the fruit on surrounding twigs and branches, which can be exacerbated by windy conditions. Wind damage often occurs when the fruit is very small, and as it grows larger, the scar stretches over a larger portion of the surface. This type of damage can be harder to see once the fruit ripens. More serious damage to the avocado may cause a tear in the skin, which heals by forming a rigid scar that rips and heals repeatedly as the fruit grows, resulting in a bigger scar.⁸ This results in a russet-type blemish on the skin that has angular netting and is sometimes referred to as “alligator” skin.⁹

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Limb rub scars are common for all kinds of tree fruit. Although avocados with excessive scarring are sold as grade 2, the pulp of the avocado maintains the same quality as one with no scarring.



Does not cause internal damage



Fruit expected to ripen and taste normal