

LIMB RUB SCARS

WHAT IS IT?

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



WHAT CAUSES IT?

Scarring is caused by the rubbing of the fruit on surrounding twigs and branches, which is exacerbated with windy conditions. The wind damage will often occur 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 is easily hidden when the fruit ripens. More serious damage to the avocado can result in a tear in the skin that heals by forming a rigid scar that rips and heals repeatedly as the fruit grows, resulting in a bigger scar. The result is a “russet” type blemish on the skin that has angular “netting” and is sometimes referred to as alligator skin.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Limb rub scars are a fact of life for all tree fruit. Avocados with excessive scarring are sold as grade 2, although the pulp of the avocado maintains the same quality as one with no scars.



Does not cause internal damage



Fruit will ripen and taste normal