





# Almond (*Prunus dulcis*)

Type	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Height x Width (metres)	Spacing (metres)	Pollinator	Soil Type	Sun	Moisture	Shelter	Plant	Harvest
	D	Dw 4.5 x 4 F 6-10 x 6	4-5 5-7	Y				Y	Autumn to early spring	Late Feb/March

## Site

- Needs an open, sunny site, sheltered from spring frosts and wind at flowering. Likes hot summers. Tolerates drier conditions than other stone fruit.
- Needs dry weather at pollination time and during the growing season. Humidity causes diseases. Best suited to conditions in the east of the region.
- Does not tolerate poor drainage.

## Care

- Plant in late autumn or early spring.
- Be careful not to damage the taproot.
- Needs nitrogen – mulch with well-rotted manure.
- Dwarf is self-fertile. Others are cross-pollinated (by honey bees) – plant varieties that bloom at a similar time.



Fruiting spur

## Vase shape



## Modified central leader



## Training & pruning

- Train as a *vase* shape or *modified central leader* (see 'Part 2 – Training' for details). Also good as *espalier*.
- Once the shape is established, prune the tree in summer, in dry weather, and seal all cuts with pruning paint to minimise diseases.
- Bears fruit on 1-year-old shoots and on spurs on 2- or 3-year-old wood – cut back a quarter of the shoots that have already borne fruit to a new bud, to stimulate the growth of new fruiting wood.
- Cut out weak or criss-crossing branches, and dead or diseased wood.

## Companions

- Clover, thyme, garlic, chives, hyssop, tansy.

## Harvest

- Takes about 3 years to produce nuts.
- Nuts ripen late summer/early autumn.
- Harvest when the shells start to crack – clean off any dirt and pieces of hull, then air dry them and store in a cool, dry place.

## Health

- Eat fresh or use roasted – great added to vegetable or fish dishes, in sweets and desserts.
- High in healthy oils, protein, vitamins B and E, antioxidants, minerals.

## Recommended varieties

- CY750                      Fatnut/All-In-One  
403                          Fabin  
Monovale – excellent pollinator for all varieties, hard-shelled (hard to open), 'marzipan' taste