





Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*)

Type	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Height x Width (metres)	Spacing (metres)	Pollinator	Soil type	Sun	Moisture	Shelter	Plant	Harvest
	D	4-6 x 4-8	7-8	N				N	Early winter	Early to late summer

Site

- Needs full sun. Likes a cool winter, but not severe frosts or wet weather during spring. Humidity causes brown rot.
- Well-drained soil is essential. Plant on a mound if the soil can get waterlogged.

Care

- Plant in early winter, being careful not to damage the roots. Don't try to shift it later.
- At planting, shorten some of the shoots to two or three buds.
- Water frequently while young, and a month before harvest.
- Mulch in early summer to keep weeds down and retain moisture.
- Self-fertile, but you'll get more fruit if it's cross-pollinated with another variety.

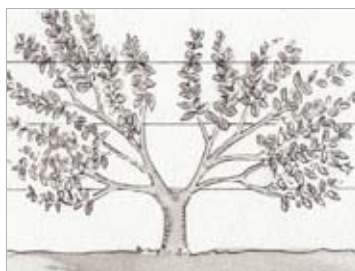
Training & pruning

- Best shape is *vase* – keep the centre open. Also great trained as a *fan* against a wall or fence (see 'Part 2 – Training').



Fruiting spur

Fan shape



Vase shape



- Prune in dry weather in summer, after harvest.
- Shorten the limbs every year and regularly thin out the strong growth to keep the fruiting wood near the centre of the tree. Remove criss-crossing branches.
- Fruiting spurs form on the previous season's growth and last for 3 or 4 years. Establish a cycle of renewing the fruiting wood. Each summer:
 - remove worn-out laterals
 - space out new shoots
 - shorten weak shoots by two-thirds.
- Seal all cuts with pruning paint.

Companions

- Nasturtium, garlic, chives, marigold, hyssop, forget-me-not.

Harvest

- Bears fruit in 2-4 years.
- Check the fruit daily when ripening. Pick when fully ripe, very carefully so they don't bruise.
- Use fresh, add to desserts or yoghurt, cook for jam, or bottle or freeze.
- Dry for use in cereals, trail mix, snacks.

Health

- Very high in vitamin A, good for vitamins B and C, potassium and antioxidants.

Recommended varieties

- Katy Cot – self-fertile
- Royal Rosa – pollinates the others
- Sundrop + Trevatt – pollinate each other