





Persimmon *(Diospyros kaki – non-astringent)*

Type	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Height x Width (metres)	Spacing (metres)	Pollinator	Soil type	Sun	Moisture	Shelter	Plant	Harvest
	D	3–6 x 4–6	5–6	N				Y	Winter	Autumn/ early winter

Site

- Needs a sunny, sheltered and frost-free position, with a hot summer.
- Prefers deep, fertile, fairly heavy soil – but must be free-draining. Will tolerate flooding for a short time, but can develop root rot if wet for longer.
- A handsome tree with great autumn colours – looks good as a specimen tree, in the shrub border or beside a driveway.

Care

- A long-lived tree. Remove suckers or it will turn into a thicket over time.
- Prepare a deep hole and plant in winter, taking care not to damage the taproot.
- Stake the tree against wind.
- Water well while young, especially in spring and early summer, and during dry periods when the fruit is developing.
- Mulch in spring.
- **Don't use non-organic fertiliser – it can kill the tree.**
- Self-fertile, pollinated by bees and other insects.

Training & pruning

- Good grown in a container and also trained as a fan, hedge or espalier.
- Freestanding trees are best trained as a *vase* shape or *modified central leader*.
- See the section 'Part 2 – Training' for details on training these shapes.
- Fruits on 1-year-old wood. Prune to keep the tree open and shorten the fruiting arms so they don't break under the weight of fruit. Thin out the fruit to one every 10cm.
- Heavy pruning will pep up a 'tired' tree.

Harvest

- Bears fruit within 2–5 years.
- Fruit ripens in autumn.
- Eat fresh while crisp, or wait until the full flavour develops when the flesh is soft. Can be frozen, peeled and dried, stewed, or used in salads, ice cream, cakes, desserts, sauces.

Health

- High in vitamins A and C, manganese and fibre.

Recommended variety

- Fuyu



Vase shape



Modified central leader