

Almond

Prunus dulcis · Rose family

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE Deciduous perennial tree

MATURITY 3–5 years to first useful crop



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular while
establishing,
moderate once
mature



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



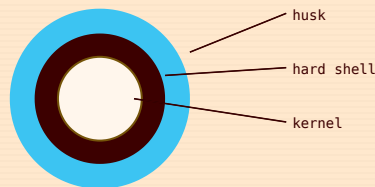
SPACING
6–8m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Nut anatomy

Almonds develop inside a green, fuzzy hull that splits open at ripeness, revealing the familiar hard shell and kernel inside — very similar structure to other stone fruit.



02 Planting

METHOD	Plant bare-rooted while dormant, graft union above soil.
SOIL	Well-drained, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Late frost** — damages early blossom; site away from frost pockets.
- **Fruit fly** — net or manage as fruit develops.
- **Bacterial spot** — leaf and fruit spotting; improve airflow.
- **Poor nut set** — no compatible pollinator variety nearby.

03 Growing care

- Plant two varieties for cross-pollination — most almonds are not self-fertile.
- Water regularly while young; established trees are relatively drought-tolerant.
- Prune in winter to an open, airy shape.
- Protect blossom from late frosts, which can wipe out a season's crop.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Hulls split open and begin to dry on the tree, typically late summer to autumn.
METHOD	Knock or shake branches over a tarp, or hand-pick as hulls split.
CURING	Remove hulls, then dry nuts in shell 1–2 weeks in a warm, airy spot.
STORAGE	Shelled kernels keep months airtight in a cool spot, longer frozen.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (curing nuts fully before storage) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Native groundcovers	Close tree planting	Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree.