

Apricot

Prunus armeniaca · Rose family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Deciduous perennial tree
MATURITY 2–4 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



SPACING
4–5m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Early flowering, frost risk

Apricots flower very early in spring, which makes their blossom vulnerable to late frosts wiping out the season's crop — site away from frost pockets if possible.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant bare-rooted while dormant.
SOIL	Well-drained, moderately fertile — dislikes wet feet.
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 damage to blossom** — the main risk; site carefully.
- **Brown rot** — improve airflow, remove affected fruit.
- **Fruit fly** — net or bag ripening fruit.
- **Gummosis** — sap oozing from bark, often stress-related; ensure good drainage and avoid trunk damage.

03 Growing care

- Choose a sheltered spot away from frost pockets given early flowering.
- Prune in summer to reduce disease entry.
- Water deeply through fruit development, ease off as it ripens.
- Thin fruit for better size if heavily set.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour, slight give, fragrant.
METHOD	Twist gently from the stem.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Room temperature a few days; can be dried for long-term storage.
PRESERVING	See Canning & Bottling (bottling a fruit glut) or Dehydrating (dried fruit) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Basil Garlic	Tomato	Avoid replanting stone fruit in old stone fruit ground.