



# Almonds. Planting the Orchard

## Planting the Orchard

### 1. Before planting

- Land preparation.** Prepare land to remove plant debris. Level soil so that water can drain easily and so that each tree will receive an equal amount of water. Water should not stand longer than 24 hours after irrigation.
- Irrigation.** Prepare a proper irrigation system, which can deliver water to the trees at least every ten days (for lighter soils) during the growing season. Irrigation can be every two weeks for heavier soils.

### 2. Planting

- Buy young trees with the maximum amount of roots.
- Cover or wrap roots in wet sacking to protect them during transport. Do not allow roots to dry.
- In the field, cover roots with moist soil until planting.
- Plant saplings on cooler days (0.5°C-15°C)
- Plant saplings in raised soil beds, at the proper height; spread roots. (See figure). Plant trees 5.5 m apart in rows 6 m apart.
- Water soil around saplings to eliminate air pockets. Air pockets can lead to mold formation on the roots.

#### Proper Planting Equals Successful Seedling Establishment



Picture: <http://www.treefarmproducts.com/treeplanting.pdf>

### 3. Initial management after planting

- Keep soil moist – but not saturated – to the depth of roots by irrigating in basins around the tree.
- Hoe or cultivate to keep weeds away from the tree.
- Fertilize with light applications. Every other month, apply 100 g 15:15:15 per tree (provides 15 g Nitrogen): Too much fertilizer will burn the trees.

#### Common mistakes to avoid. Any of these will kill saplings

##### Do not

- store seedlings in a bucket of water for more than 1-2 hours
- plant seedling too deep or too shallow
- allow roots to be cramped or to curl back toward the top of the hole
- plant in sod without good site preparation
- leave trees in boxes exposed to the sun
- plant in dry soil



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