



Almonds: Variety and Site Selection



Variety and site selection

Key points to consider in choosing a variety and site for growing Almonds.

Info sheet

Step	Key point /why
1. Review market preferences	Where is the market – is it established or potential? How big is the market? Is there competition - What do they produce, how much, what is the quality and price?
2. Can I grow it successfully?	Do I have the climate, water and soil required (See more below) What will be the cost of production, transport and marketing considering location and input costs?
3. Root-stock selection	Ensure rootstock and scion (budding material) are compatible Match rootstock with soil (e.g., saline or acid soil, sandy soils often have more nematodes; heavier soils may have waterlogging?)
4. Climate requirements	Is there full sun? Will chill requirements (400-500 hrs below 7°C) be met? Frosts - When do frosts occur? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almond is relatively insensitive to frost while dormant, but becomes sensitive to frost as buds swell. Almonds bloom early so avoid areas with late spring frosts Tree death can occur if temperatures drop too much (e.g., less than -26°C)
5. Pollination requirements?	Good pollination requires good bee movement. Bees require <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperatures above 13°C, no or little rain, Prefer winds less than 24 kph? Most bees operate within 90-180 m of their colony.
6. Soil type and water requirements?	Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonds require consistent uniform soil moisture during the growing season. Avoid waterlogging. Salinity of irrigation water should be less than 1.1 dS/m. Soil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deep (1-2 m) sandy loams soils with good drainage are best Soils should be free of compaction for good root growth Soil EC should be less than 1.5 dS/m
7. Topography	Does soil slope allow easy machinery movement and harvest?
8. Harvest	Will there be adequate resources to harvest? Will there be competition with other crops or other varieties? Is there adequate cool (away from sun) and dry storage Ensure space to keep varieties separate

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