



Almond Training

What is training?

Training uses tree cutting, staking etc. to develop a tree into a desired shape.

Why train trees?

- Trees are trained to develop a sturdy tree and canopy that can support large quantities of high quality nuts.
- Training opens up the tree canopy to maximize light penetration and permit adequate air movement.
- Properly trained trees will minimize pruning needs.

How is training done?

- Almonds are normally trained so that the center is open with 3 or 4 uniformly spaced scaffolds (or side branches) coming from the trunk. There is no central leader branch.
- The branches should be angled up at 45-60 degrees - as horizontal branches tend to break when under load.
- The lowest scaffolds should be 60-80 cm above the soil surface.
- If there are less than 3 scaffolds, then cut the tree back to a central "whip" and remove side branches to encourage development of new branches.
- Scaffolds can be headed (have their tips removed) during dormant season to promote lateral branching.

When is training done?

- Train trees during the first five years after planting and complete training before commercial quantities of nuts are set.
- Training usually begins after the first growing season

Poorly trained trees

- Improperly trained trees will have a very upright or horizontal branches, which result in limb breakage under heavy fruit load and low fruiting capabilities

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