



Almonds: Non-infectious bud failure

What is a Genetic disorder?

Certain almond varieties suffer from a heat-induced, irreversible disorder that can cause significant production loss over time. The problem only occurs in genetic material associated with susceptible trees.

What can you do about genetic disorder?

1. Select PHDP mother trees which have never shown bud failure symptoms

Assess each variety and if trees propagated from a particular tree (clone) show symptoms in later generations, it should be replaced with a clone which does not (nor has ever shown) any symptoms. Good record keeping is essential.

2. Look for symptoms

- In the spring, look for top-shoots which appear dead or which fail to leaf out properly or bloom.
- Look for trees where the middle shoots show this symptom, but where the tip shows growth.
- Rough, dark bark on limbs is usually present in bud failure trees.

3. Avoid and prevent the problem

- Only use budwood from varieties or clones which have never shown symptoms.
- Know the source and history of your budwood.



Prepared by John Driver, Corky Lovin, and Mark A Bell.

This publication has been produced with the support of the European Union, Perennial Horticulture Development Program, Almond Industry Development Project, Contract: ASIE/2007/135-504, Roots of Peace, Kabul, +93 (0) 794-677-212, zach@rootsofpeace.org. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of UCD and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. Copyright © UC Regents Davis campus, 2009. All Rights Reserved.

