



Almonds: Planting Rootstock

Establishing Rootstock

Use rootstock that is adapted to the area, resistant to any local problems (e.g., pests and diseases) and compatible with the bud.

1. Land preparation

- a. Prepare land to have a single planting bed about 1.2 m apart



2. Seed preparation

- a. Use seed of a known source that will be compatible with the scion (bud)
- b. Peach is often used for Almond rootstock in the USA. Bitter Almond is sometimes used in other countries.
- c. After cleaning, dry seed – out of the direct sun - for 2 weeks
- d. Chilling seed increases establishment rate. Seed can be chilled in the field after planting or by stratification, where the seed is kept moist in cold store (1-2°C) for 1-2 months for Almond seed, or 3-4 months for Peach.
- e. Plant seed in late winter/early Spring



3. Seed placement

- a. Depending on seed quality place 1-3 seed manually at each planting position with the seed point down,
- b. Aim for trees around 15 cm apart.



4. Cover seed

- a. Manually or mechanically cover seed.

5. Management

- a. Irrigate as needed – avoid waterlogging
- b. Fertilize frequently and lightly with a complete (N:P:K) nutrient source for healthy vigorous trees



6. Bud

- a. If rootstock are actively growing and the thickness of a pencil, then they are ready for budding.
- b. With good management, It is possible to produce seedlings in one year.

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