

Almond tree



↑
max. 10 metres
∅
max. 1 metre

Occurrence

The almond tree originally comes from Southwest Asia. Humans brought it to southern Europe and North Africa, later also to North America. Today, the almond is mainly cultivated in California, USA. For that, the soil must be permeable and calcareous.

Significance

The almond has been cultivated in western Asia for over 6000 years. When it came to Europe in the Middle Ages, it was reserved for the nobility. Today almonds are available to all and becoming increasingly popular. Worldwide, almost 1.7 million tonnes of almonds were harvested in the 2020/21 season.

Sustainability

Since almond trees need a lot of water, groundwater is often pumped for irrigation. This lowers the groundwater level, which is a problem especially for the local population. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly important to grow almonds sustainably.

At ForestFinance

At ForestFinest, organic almonds are grown sustainably on an area of about 130 ha in the Errachidia region of Morocco.



Almond tree

FAMILY ROSACEAE
GENUS PRUNUS
SPECIES PRUNUS DULCIS

Characteristics

Leaves

The leaves of the almond tree unfold alternately or in clusters on the branches after flowering. They have small notches on the edge and are pointed at the top.

Bark

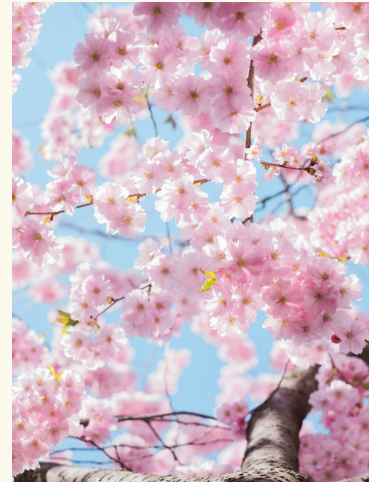
The bark of young twigs is bare, first green, then reddish. Older barks are brownish, later greyish-brown to greyish-black. The branches are upright or spread horizontally with many short twigs.

Fruits

The almond tree initially bears green fruits, which are downy and hairy. Later they turn brown and dry out. The seed, which is mainly eaten, is inside the kernel.

Flowers

The almond tree bears five-petaled flowers from mid-February to mid-March. They are white and have a red dot in the centre. This makes them appear pink.



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Fruit varieties

Broadly speaking, almonds are divided into three types: edible sweet almonds, cracked almonds and the poisonous bitter almonds. Most almond varieties need to be pollinated by bees, but researchers have developed varieties that can pollinate themselves.



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DENSITY JANKA HARDNESS

837 kg/m³ 1700 lbf



Harvest

In large farming areas, the almonds are harvested with vibrating machines, while in small ones they are still harvested by hand. Either a net is stretched under the trees or weeds are planted so that the almonds do not break when they come up.



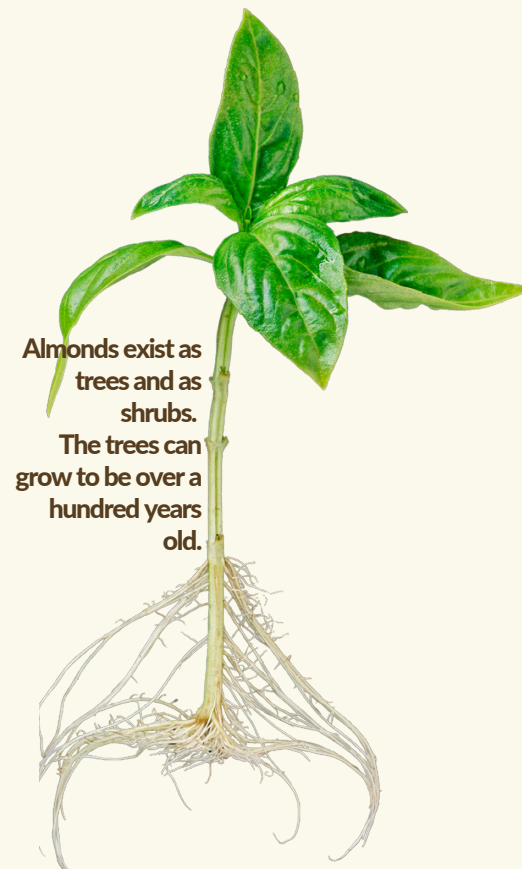
Processing

Almond wood is very thin and difficult to work with because it cracks easily, which is why it is considered a precious wood. Sweet and bitter almonds are edible. The poisonous bitter almonds must first be boiled to remove their bitter substances.



Preparation

You can create many delicious desserts from almonds. Sweet and cracked almonds are used for this. The flavour of bitter almonds is also used for baking. Moreover, almond oil is used in the cosmetics industry to treat dry skin.



Almonds exist as trees and as shrubs.

The trees can grow to be over a hundred years old.