

Almendro



Occurrence

The almendro tree is native to Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica and the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua. It grows in the tropical lowlands and in the mountains up to 900 m above sea level. The Almendro especially prefers sandy but also acid soils.

Significance

The almendro tree is particularly resistant to erosion due to its highly branched roots. It is also home to more than 1,000 living beings, from the roots to the crown.

Threats

Not only the almendro tree is endangered, but also the great green macaw, a parrot with bright green-blue plumage that feeds on 80 per cent of the almendro's almonds.

At ForestFinance

The almendro tree grows on almost all fincas in Panama. Both in the southeast in Darién and Panama, as well as on the Pacific coast in Veraguas and Chiriquí.

Characteristics



Leaves

The feathered green leaves are alternate and about 10 cm long.



Bark

The young almendro tree has a white bark, which becomes rough over the years. In older trees there are only a few light spots left in the now brownish bark.



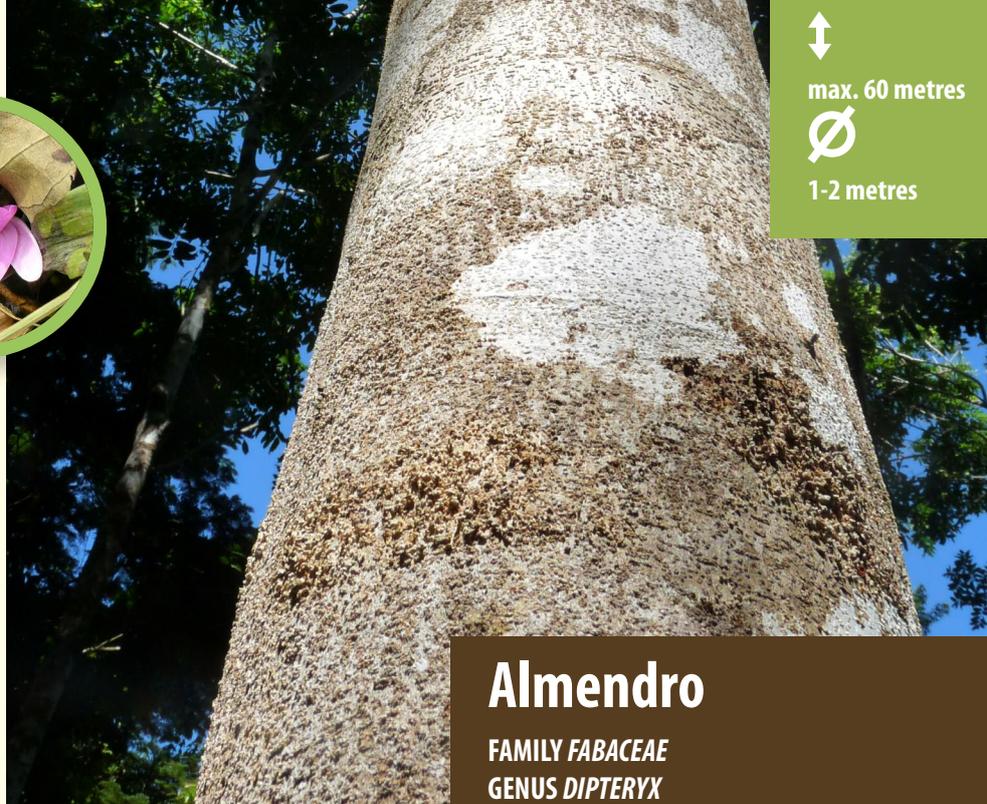
Fruits

The fruits are 6-8 cm long, light brown-greyish and have a very hard, approx. 5 cm long dark brown core, which is edible.



Flowers

The almendro tree is quite popular as an ornamental tree in Panama because of its delicate pink flowers. It blooms between May and September.



max. 60 metres



1-2 metres

Almendro

FAMILY FABACEAE

GENUS DIPTERYX

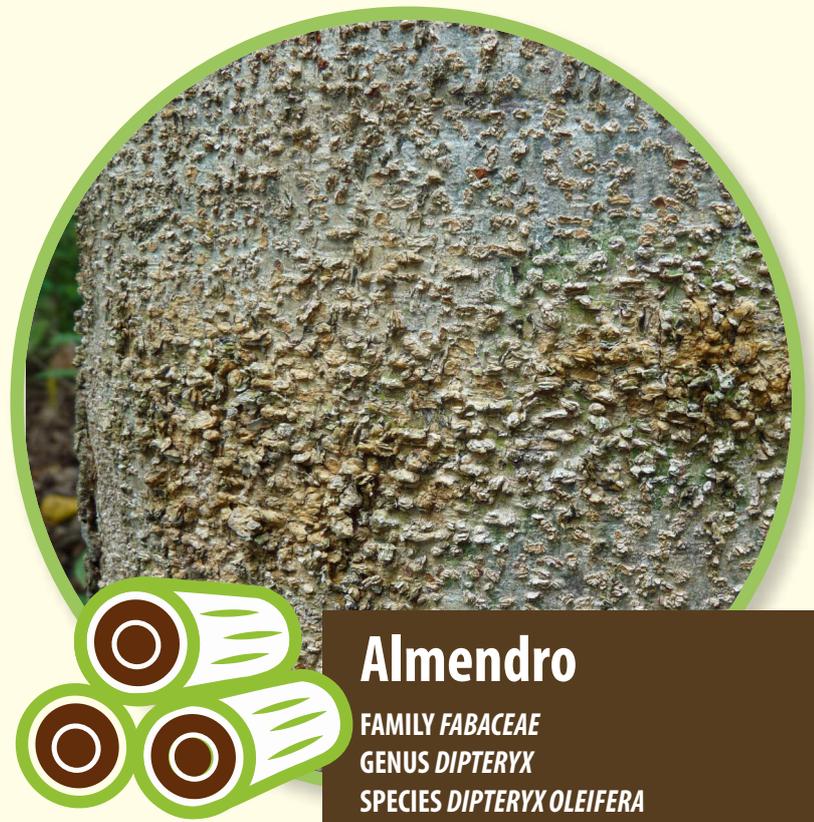
SPECIES DIPTERYX OLEIFERA



Almendro

Description of wood

The light yellow to slightly reddish wood is extremely hard due to its high density and is one of the heaviest precious woods in the world. Sapwood and heartwood can hardly be distinguished from each other. Alongside mahogany, the wood of the almendro tree is one of the most sought-after tropical woods.



Almendro

FAMILY *FABACEAE*
GENUS *DIPTERYX*
SPECIES *DIPTERYX OLEIFERA*

DENSITY

0.85 g/cm³

JANKA HARDNESS

1130 lbf

Use

The processing of the wood is a challenge due to its hardness. Once processed, however, you benefit from particularly weather-resistant patio and garden furniture.



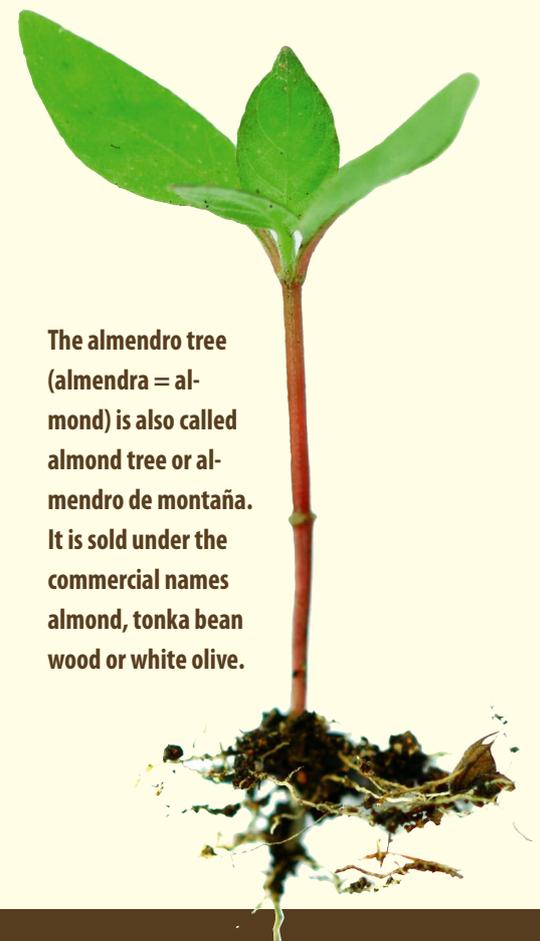
Sustenance

During dry season the almendro tree throws off its fruits. If you crack the hard shell, you will find the fruit. The kernel also serves as food for many animals.



Growth

Almendro trees, which are used for wood production, are already being limbed at a young age. This means that the lower branches of the trunk are removed so that the tree develops a straight, knot-free trunk.



The almendro tree (almendra = almond) is also called almond tree or almendro de montaña. It is sold under the commercial names almond, tonka bean wood or white olive.