

# Almonds

## Planting Specifications



- 12-15' semi-dwarf
- Native to Middle East and Asia
- Varieties: Reliable, an almond/peach hybrid
- Must have well drained soil
- As reliable is a peach almond hybrid, growth and management are very similar to peaches. The main difference being the pit of the fruit is the almond you eat!
- Nuts must be cracked and roasted for best results
- At initial planting, we recommend planting allium companion plants (like chives) to deter pests

## Common Pests and Diseases

*Other diseases or pests may be present, but these are the ones most commonly found in St. Louis.*

**Codling Moth and Oriental Fruit Moth:** Small gray/brown moths that eat the fruit inside out

*Treatment:* Bt inclusion in 4th holistic spray, Bt sprays, sunflower companion planting

**Peach Tree Borer:** Moth larvae that bore into the trunk and branches, weakening or killing the tree

*Treatment:* Bt inclusion in 4th holistic spray, wrapping trunk with window screening, kaolin clay past painted on the trunk, alliums planted around trunk

**Peach Leaf Curl:** Fungal infection that infects the leaves, causing them to curl up and fall off

*Treatment:* Copper applications when tree is dormant

**Perennial Canker:** Fungal infection that infects winter injury to bark, leads to branch death

*Treatment:* Prune right before bloom, remove infected material, apply mustard oil or mustard green poultice to cankers

## Classes and Resources

**Holistic Sprays-** Recipes and ingredients available to Giving Grove projects

**Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt), kaolin clay, liquid copper, mustard greens seed packets** - Available for purchase from our online store

**Orchard Class Recordings-** Summer Pruning, Dormant Fruit Tree Pruning, Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest. Available on our YouTube channel.

**Companion plant recommendations-** Handout available on website

## Timeline of Care

### Spring Care

- Application of four holistic sprays (liquid fish, pure neem oil, effective microbes) every few weeks once leaves start emerging and ending once fruits have formed (*Late February to Mid-May*)
- Complete the big yearly pruning. Almonds only produce on new growth, so almonds can be pruned heavily, up to 33% of the branches (*Late February to Mid-March*)
- Remove any tree wraps placed in winter (*Early April*)
- For the first three years, remove all fruitlets to prevent fruit/nut production (*Late April to Early May*)

### Summer Care

- No need to thin fruits since the pit is what produces the almond, so spend the summer checking for pests and disease

### Fall Care

- Start collecting almond pits that have fallen. These hold the almond inside! (*August through October*)
- While harvesting, remove any mummified fruits and dispose of outside of the orchard to prevent disease spread (*August through October*)
- Cut back or harvest allium companion plant (*September through November*)
- Remove or shred all fallen leaves to prevent diseases from spreading (*Mid-October to November*)
- Fifth holistic spray once all leaves have been disposed of (*November*)
- Install tree wraps to protect trees from rabbits and voles (*Late November*)
- Apply a new layer of mulch to the base of the tree (*November*)

### Ongoing Care

- During the first full growing season, water 5 gallons per plant per week, with the exception of weeks with substantial rain. After the first year, trees only need to be watered during droughts
- Weed the mulch ring
- Plant any desired companion plants to benefit the orchard ecosystem (*Spring or Fall*)