

Apricot

DID YOU KNOW
APRICOTS WERE
ONCE REFERRED
TO AS "THE SEED
OF THE SUN?"

CAN I GROW APRICOTS?

Apricots are a small, soft fruit that is beloved all over the world both fresh and dried. In addition to being delicious, apricots have many health benefits, including being rich in vitamin A, vitamin C, antioxidants, and potassium. They are native to Asia - particularly countries like Turkey and Iran. Apricots are a delicious addition to the home orchard, and this grow guide will give you all the information you need to care for them properly!

HOW TO PLANT APRICOTS

The best time to plant an apricot tree is in the fall (when the tree is dormant) or in the spring (before it has leafed out). To plant, dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the pot. Mix a combination of soil and compost that has a ratio of 70% soil to 30% compost. Fill up the hole with enough of your soil mix so that the surface of the root ball will be flush with the ground. Then set the plant in the ground and backfill with your soil mix. Water thoroughly to remove any air pockets.

MAINTENANCE

To care for your apricot, you will want to water it every few days for two weeks after planting. After the tree has been established, you will only need to water when the soil is dry (usually every two to three days). Test the soil with your finger 4 to 5 inches beneath the surface to see if it is dry. Too much water can prevent root growth and drown the tree. Not enough water will cause dehydration. Prune in winter once the tree has gone dormant. Make sure to spray regularly to prevent fungus and insect damage. Fertilize in the spring with a high-nitrogen fertilizer, and again in the fall with a high-phosphorus fertilizer.



COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

Apricot trees are susceptible to pests and diseases. It is important to regularly check on your apricot trees to identify and treat any developing diseases or infestations. Take a look at this simple guide to help you:

Brown Rot/Ripe Fruit Rot

Brown Rot is one of the most disappointing of diseases that can afflict an apricot tree. A fungal disease often caused by heavy rains and humid weather, brown rot can easily be identified if your apricots develop brown, rotten spots on the fruit's flesh. If your apricot trees develop brown rot, make sure to start spraying immediately with an organic fungicide like copper fungicide to make sure the disease doesn't make a second appearance.

Bacterial Canker

A nasty, deadly disease, bacterial canker is a fungus that, once a tree develops, is almost impossible to eradicate. It is identified by black, sunken sores in the bark of the tree that ooze with an amber-colored sap. It is very difficult to get rid of bacterial canker, but some growers have had success with persistent, high-dose applications of copper fungicide as soon as leaves begin to drop.

Borers

Easily identified by the small, round holes that they drill into the bark and limbs of trees, borers are a small bug that can wreak major havoc on a tree. Sap seeps from the holes, increasing chances of infections. To eliminate, you can use Bonide (Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew).

Mites

Small-brownish bugs that often hide on the undersides of leaves, mites cause apricot tree leaves to yellow and shrivel, weakening it. They are often found when trees are experiencing a drought or dry spell. To eliminate them, you can use neem oil.

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