

# Plum

PLUM SKINS CAN VARY FROM RED, ORANGE, YELLOW, AND PURPLE IN COLOR!

## CAN I GROW PLUMS?

Plums are a sweet fruit that are popular across America, containing important antioxidants that are known to reduce anxiety and keep diabetes, cancer, and Alzheimer's at bay. They are a delicious and healthy addition to anyone's garden. Plums are very easy to grow, and we carry varieties that can thrive anywhere from zone 3 to 10. Take a look at this grow guide to get started!

## HOW TO PLANT PLUMS

The best time to plant a plum tree is in the fall/winter (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 plum, you will want to water it every few days for 2 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). Prune in winter once the tree has gone dormant. Wait until approximately one year after planting to fertilize. The first two weeks after planting will be the most crucial to survival, so keep your trees properly irrigated. After planting, do not over water. 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.



# COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

Like any fruit tree, plums can develop fungal infections and/or pest problems if not cared for properly. It's important to regularly check on your plum trees to identify and treat any developing diseases or infestations.

## Black Knot Disease

Black knot is a fungal disease that first appears as a green knot on plum stems in the spring. As time goes on, the green welts turn to black and completely strangle the tree. Usually, by the time the green buds appear on the tree, the fungus has taken its hold on the tree. As is the case with most diseases, the best treatment is prevention. Using a copper fungicide regularly is the best way to avoid fungal infections like black knot.

## Aphids

Aphids are one of the most detrimental pests to plum trees. If your plum tree's leaves start to curl and wilt, it is likely that aphids are taking shelter in them. The best way to get rid of them is by physically removing the aphids from the leaves. Using gloves, the bugs can easily be removed and squashed. You will then want to spray with an insecticide like neem oil or Spinosad. This treatment should eliminate the pesky bugs.

## Brown Rot

Another very common fungus that can quickly destroy a plum crop is brown rot. Brown rot is a fungus that turns plums brown and wrinkly, and creates gummy, oozing cankers. It is easily the most destructive form of fungus to plums. To get rid of brown rot, collect and remove all infected fruit. Spray with fungicide during full bloom and two subsequent sprays at 10 to 14 day intervals to prevent infections of flowers and young fruit. Fungicides are also required when fruit ripens. It is important to begin spraying in seven day intervals (typically, three times until harvest) when fruit turns color from green to yellow and red.

## Shothole Borers

Shothole borers are notorious for plaguing plum trees. Boring into the wood of the tree itself, borers can easily be identified if the bark of your plum tree develops small, round holes. Over time, shothole borer infestations can be fatal to a tree, so make sure to treat with neem oil or a broad-range organic insecticide.

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