

# Apricot Tree

## *Prunus armeniaca*

**Size:**

Up to 25-30' tall x 15-20' wide

**Evergreen/Deciduous:**

Deciduous

**Water Needs:**

Moderate

**Exposure:**

Full sun or partial shade

**Hardiness:**

10 degrees F.

**Bloom Period:**

Spring

**General:** The Apricot Tree is a subspecies of the peach and dates back 3,000 years to northeastern China. Apricots are sweet and delicious when eaten fresh; however, they may be eaten as a dried fruit. These small to medium-sized, self-fertile trees have spreading canopies with lovely white and pink blossoms in spring, and yellow to red leaf color in fall.

**Designer:** Grown for its fruit and seasonal shade in the landscape. These very attractive trees bloom white and light pink flowers in spring. Harvest fruit when ripe, usually from May—September. Dwarf varieties are available in nurseries, and can be grown in large containers if given ample, regular irrigation. Best varieties for the Las Vegas valley include Blenheim (Royal), Gold Kist, Royal Rosa, and Moorpark.

**Maintenance:** As with all trees, *Prunus armeniaca* should be pruned thoughtfully. For high-yielding crops, pruning is best-performed by a professional arborist. In hot, desert climates, the trunks of newly planted trees should be wrapped or otherwise protected from sunburn, especially in the first summer. Performs much better in improved soils and with organic mulch as a ground cover. Stressed trees often succumb to borer damage and death.

**Schilling Horticulture Group, Inc.**

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# Plum Tree

## *Prunus domestica*

**Size:**

Up to 15' tall x 15' wide

**Evergreen/Deciduous:**

Deciduous

**Water Needs:**

Moderate

**Exposure:**

Full sun

**Hardiness:**

-15 degrees F.

**Bloom Period:**

Spring

**General:** A plum is a stone fruit tree in the genus *Prunus*. The flowers come in groups of one to five together on short stems, and the fruit has a groove running down one side and a smooth stone (or pit). Mature plum fruit may have a dusty-white coating that gives them a glaucous appearance; this is easily rubbed off.

**Designer:** Grown for its fruit and seasonal shade in the landscape. Trees bloom white or light pink flowers in spring. Harvest fruit when ripe in summer and early fall. One of the best-suited varieties for hot, desert climates is '**Santa Rosa,**' which also comes in weeping form. Along with being a handsome tree, both fruit and flower add wonderful color to the garden.

**Maintenance:** As with all trees, *Prunus domestica* should be pruned thoughtfully. For high-yielding crops, pruning is best-performed by a professional arborist. In hot, desert climates, the trunks of newly planted trees should be wrapped or otherwise protected from sunburn, especially in the first summer. Performs much better in improved soils and with organic mulch as a ground cover. Stressed trees often succumb to borer damage and death.

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# Almond Tree

## *Prunus dulcis*

**Size:**

Up to 10-15' tall x 10-15' wide

**Evergreen/Deciduous:**

Deciduous

**Water Needs:**

Low to moderate

**Exposure:**

Full sun

**Hardiness:**

20-25 degrees F.

**Bloom Period:**

Spring

**General:** Although primarily native to western Asia, almond trees today are grown throughout the world. This is a dense, rounded, deciduous tree or large multi-stemmed shrub. The almond is self-incompatible and two or more cultivars are needed for best cross pollination. Honey bees are common pollinators for this tree.

**Designer:** Grown for its fruit and seasonal shade in the landscape. The first of the fruit trees to bloom in early spring, its white and pink flowers are borne prior to the formation of leaves and look especially dramatic and beautiful against the very dark bark. Fruit is ripe when the outer husk splits open and reveals the inner shell, usually from June—July. Dwarf varieties are sometimes available in nurseries, and can be grown in large containers. Best-suited varieties for the Las Vegas valley include All-in-One and Garden Prince, both of which are dwarf varieties.

**Maintenance:** As with all trees, *Prunus dulcis* should be pruned thoughtfully. For high-yielding crops, pruning is best-performed by a professional arborist. In hot, desert climates, the trunks of newly planted trees should be wrapped or otherwise protected from sunburn, especially in the first summer. Performs much better in improved soils and with organic mulch as a ground cover. Stressed trees often succumb to borer damage and death.

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# Dwarf Peach 'Bonanza'

## *Prunus persica* 'Bonanza'

**Size:**

Up to 6' tall x 6' wide

**Evergreen/Deciduous:**

Deciduous

**Water Needs:**

Moderate

**Exposure:**

Full sun

**Hardiness:**

-15 degrees F.

**Bloom Period:**

Spring

**General:** Dwarf Bonanza Peach is a genetic dwarf, growing to only 6 feet, with showy flowers. The fruit is large, freestone with orange-red skin and sweet yellow flesh. Midseason bearing. At 3 or 4 years of age they begin to bear large crops and reach peak productivity at 8 to 12 years. Peaches need clear, hot weather during their growing season and require well-drained soil as well as a regular fertilizing program.

**Designer:** Grown for its fruit and ornamental value in the landscape. Trees bloom bright pink flowers in spring. Harvest fruit in summer and fall. As this is a dwarf variety, it can be grown in large containers with regular irrigation, or in the landscape as a shrub or small tree.

**Maintenance:** As with all trees, *Prunus persica* 'Bonanza' should be pruned thoughtfully. For high-yielding crops, pruning is best-performed by a professional arborist. In hot, desert climates, the trunks of newly planted trees should be wrapped or otherwise protected from sunburn, especially in the first summer. Performs much better in improved soils and with organic mulch as a ground cover. Stressed trees may succumb to borer damage and death.

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# Nectarine Tree

## *Prunus persica nectarina*

**Size:**

Up to 10-20' tall x 10-20' wide

**Evergreen/Deciduous:**

Deciduous

**Water Needs:**

Moderate

**Exposure:**

Full sun

**Hardiness:**

-15 degrees F.

**Bloom Period:**

Spring

**General:** The nectarine is classified as a sub-species of peach. Nectarine fruit is similar to peach fruit except that the nectarine fruit tend to be smaller, smooth, more aromatic, and have more red color on the fruit surface. Nectarine fruits may be either yellow or white-fleshed.

**Designer:** Grown for its fruit and seasonal shade in the landscape. Trees bloom light pink flowers in spring. Harvest fruit from June—July. Dwarf varieties are available in nurseries, and can be grown in large containers with regular and ample irrigation.

**Maintenance:** As with all trees, Nectarines should be pruned thoughtfully. For high-yielding crops, pruning is best-performed by a professional arborist. In hot, desert climates, the trunks of newly planted trees should be wrapped or otherwise protected from sunburn, especially in the first summer. Performs much better in improved soils and with organic mulch as a ground cover. Stressed trees often succumb to borer damage and eventual death.

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