



Pomegranates

About Pomegranates

Pomegranates are a fruit that normally grow as trees up to 8 m high. It typically grows below 1000 m in altitude, is mainly confined to the tropics and subtropics.

Pomegranate adapts to all kinds of soil and climate; it is tolerant of drought, salt, iron chlorosis and active calcium carbonate.



Climate and soil

Temperature	Frost tolerance	Water needs	Tolerance to waterlogging	Drought tolerance
Grows well where winters are cool. Produces good fruit when temperatures are 38°C and the climate is dry during flowering.	Can withstand frosty conditions but will not survive long below -10°C	125-150 cm per year. Irrigate from fall to harvest to increase fruit size.	Will tolerate some flooding.	grows well in arid and semi-arid climates
Humidity tolerance	Wind tolerance	Soil needs	Nutrient requirements	
Areas with high relative humidity or rain are unsuitable as fruit tend to be sweet and crack.		Tolerates wide range of soils.	Best pH is 5.5-6.5, but can tolerate wider range up to pH7.5.	

Cultural practices

Propagation	Cuttings or seed
Rootstocks	None - not grafted
Spacing	Self fertilizing. 5-7 and 3-5 meters between rows and trees in the row or 3 x 3 tree square, with 9 trees and a pollenizer in the center
Training and Pruning	Open center or bush form with 3-5 trunks
Thinning	Hand thin at 2-3 weeks after bloom if too much fruit
Tillage and orchard care	Weed frequently. Working shallowly to prevent damage to roots
Time to 1st harvest	Usually 2.5-3 years
Time to full production	Typically in the 6 th year after planting
Normal productive life	The vigor of a pomegranate declines after about 15 years
Expected yields	6 t/ha
Harvest	Hand harvest with careful handling. Hand pulling rather than cutting is better.
Storage	Only clean fruit with no insect damage should be stored at 7°C and 90% relative humidity.
Pests and diseases	Pomegranates have few disorders, pests or diseases. On occasion, leaf footed plant bugs, aphids, mites and worms can be a problem.

Prepared by Louise Ferguson and MA Bell, September 2011

Primary reference: Glozer, K and Ferguson, L. 2008. Pomegranate Production in Afghanistan. UC Davis.

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