



# Sierra View Nursery Inc.

## Apricot Care

### Planting

Standard apricots are best planted directly into the ground, but dwarf varieties are also ideal for container growing if that's what you prefer. Before you dig a hole for your new tree, take a good look at your yard and find the ideal planting location. You'll need a spot that receives at least six to eight hours of sun every day. The soil should be loose, rich, and well-draining, with a pH between 6.0 and 7.0.

Make sure the area is at least 20 to 25 feet away from any other trees or full-sun-loving plants if you're growing a standard apricot, or five to eight feet away for a dwarf variety. Dig a hole that's as deep and twice as wide as your sapling's root ball. Backfill with a mixture of native soil and our organic compost. An ideal ratio is two parts native soil to one part compost. Water thoroughly.

### Watering

Make sure to water your apricot trees after the first two to three top inches of the soil are dry during the growing months. You want your soil to be moist, but not waterlogged. An overwatered apricot tree will start to show signs of yellowing leaves and general droopiness, in which case you should hold off on watering it for a while. You may need to give container-grown trees water more frequently, as containers dry out faster than the ground does.

### Pruning

The best time to prune your trees is when they're dormant. begin with dead, broken, or diseased branches. Cut them off with clean pruning shears. This is a great time to remove any suckers that you find popping up around the base of the trunk, too. Prune away any crossing or inward-growing branches. Branches that cross against each other may rub up against one another, opening wounds in the bark that can let pests or disease pathogens in. Finally, prune three or four of the branches to shorten them and maintain the tree's shape. Cut at a 45-degree angle for vertical branches, or a straight 90-degree angle for horizontal branches. Cuts like this help rainwater to run off the wound, reducing chances that the moisture will sit on the wound and cause it to rot.

### Thinning

Once your apricot blossoms are pollinated and the fruits are about one inch in diameter, thin them to one every three to four inches. This allows the tree to put more energy into growing the remaining fruits into larger, sweeter delicacies for you to enjoy! If you're growing dwarf varieties, which are smaller and less capable of holding heavy loads of fruit, you may need to thin more aggressively.

### Fertilizing

You can use either traditional, organic or a hybrid mix fertilizer for your apple tree. *Lily Miller's All-Purpose Planting and Growing Food* (hybrid) or *Down To Earth Fruit Tree* (Organic) are both excellent choices and will

deliver the required nutrients. Be sure to evenly spread fertilizer under the entire canopy of your tree, avoiding a 5-inch area closest to the trunk. After fertilizing, be sure to water your tree. Depending on the age of your plant, application of the fertilizer should be adjusted.