

Almond Nursery Tree Classification Standard

The Almond Board of Australia through the Production Committee has recommended the following standards be considered when entering a Nursery Tree Supply Agreement. Growers may prefer a different tree structure on delivery and are encouraged to specify the requirements at the time of ordering.

Tree prices for each grade should be agreed between the grower purchaser and the nursery supplier and inserted into the Supply Agreement at the time of ordering and inserted into the Supply Agreement Item 3 Order details, tree classification and quote.

1. Source Material Criteria

- Unless directed by the grower the nursery is to use first generation, true to type, high health budwood material supplied by the Almond Board of Australia.
- Unless directed by the grower the rootstock is to be supplied by a high health propagator.

2. Nursery Tree Grades

Criteria that must be met for all Grades

- Tree is to be straight. Defined as less than 100mm deviance from the graft union.
- Graft union / bud height between 100mm and 180mm from the ground.
- The rootstock is to be no higher than 12mm above the graft union.
- Free of spurs (laterals) in the first 700mm from the ground.
- Suckers removed.
- Be free of pest, disease, weeds, weed seeds and soil.
- Be free of damage from animal, insect, fungal and climatic effects.
- No mechanical or physical damage from undercutting or other nursery operations.
- Have been left with a sound root system following lifting that can adequately support the tree (Figure 1).
- Treated with Nogall ® as per the grower's requirements.
- Washed and moist on delivery.
- Defoliated.

Grade 1A Criteria

- Minimum height of 1200mm taken from the ground level.
- Minimum diameter of 12mm at the graft union and 6mm diameter at 1200mm.
- Four to eight two-bud spurs (laterals) above 700mm that are no thicker than half the size of the trunk.

Grade 1B Criteria

- Same as Grade 1A without spurs/ laterals

Grade 2A Criteria

- Tree height between 850mm to 1199mm from ground level.
- Minimum diameter of 10mm at the graft union.
- Four to eight two-bud spurs (laterals) above 700mm that are no thicker than half the size of the trunk.

Grade 2B Criteria

- Same as Grade 2A without spurs/ laterals

Grade 3 Criteria

- Tree height between 500mm to 849mm from ground level.
- Minimum diameter of 10mm at the graft union.

3. Communication

- Growers should order trees providing sufficient time to produce a Grade 1 tree. The recommended timeframe is 15 months prior to the required delivery date for a spring budded tree (Figure 2).
- In-line with Clause 9 nurseries are to communicate the expected grade of trees at least two months prior to the agreed delivery date.
- Grade 3 trees (or lower) will require communication between nursery and grower to determine if these trees are to be grown-on as a two-year-old.

Figure 1. Sufficient root mass to support a Grade 1 tree.



Figure 2. Timeframe needed for ordering trees to produce high quality spring-budded trees.

