



Prunus dulcis



Height	5-10 m
Width	6-8m
Crown	broad ovoid
Bark and branches	branches green to purple brown: bark dark brown, smooth, grooved only at the base in older trees
Leaf	ovoid to lanceolate, 6-12 cm, glossy green
Flowers	single or in pairs, pink to white, March-April
Fruits	stone fruit, ovoid elongated, up to 5 cm in size, stone-smooth (almond)
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	clayed soil, loamy soil, sandy soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	7a (-17,7 to -15,0 °C)
Wind resistance	fairly, good
Other resistances	can withstand wind
Fauna tree	can withstand wind, valuable for butterflies
Application	tree containers, small gardens, patio gardens
Shape	clearstem tree, clearstem fruit tree
Origin	North Africa, Middle East
Synonyms	Prunus amygdalus

Prunus dulcis is a large, multi-stemmed shrub to a small tree that will not grow much taller than 10 m. The smooth green twigs are purple-brown on the sun side, older twigs turn completely purple-brown. The bark is always smooth and only grooved at the base in older trees. The leaves have a serrated leaf edge and long pointed tip. They are glossy green on both sides. The flowers, which stand alone or in pairs, open before the leaves emerge. The individual flowers are 3-5 cm in size, bowl-shaped and (pale) pink when opening. After a few days, they glow paler and are almost white when flowering. They are followed by about 5 cm large, flattened egg-shaped drupes. The kernel is the well-known, edible almond. There are two subspecies of P. dulcis var. amara, the Bitter almond, and P. dulcis var. dulcis, the Sweet almond. The sweet almonds can be eaten directly. The bitter almonds are poisonous if eaten raw, these should be treated before consumption. Almonds are grown commercially on a very large scale worldwide.

P. dulcis requires a sufficiently moist but well-drained soil. If this is met, the tree will grow in any soil type, including calcareous soil. P. dulcis