



Sierra View Nursery Inc.

Aprium Care

Aprium trees like warm springs and summers. Hardy in zones 7 to 10, they need full sun and require around 300 to 500 hours of chilling with temperatures below 45°F.

Planting

You'll need at least two apriums for the best results, though many varieties can fruit on their own. It all depends on the particular cultivar, so take note when selecting your trees. A loamy soil rich in organic nutrients is needed. It should be well-draining with a neutral pH at about 6.5 to 7.5. Plant in a location where the aprium is sheltered from wind but still gets full sun. In very hot areas, afternoon shade is okay. 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 aprium 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.