

JUST FRUITS

AND EXOTICS

POMEGRANATE INTRODUCTION

Pomegranate juice is a true delicacy, with a flavor that is a cross between strawberries and raspberries. It's great by itself with a little sugar and shaved ice. It can also be made into jelly or a fantastic fruit wine. There's a tasty reason pomegranates were called the nectar of the gods.

USES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Pomegranates grow to approximately 12-15 feet tall. The attractive shrubby plants are deciduous, and have glossy dark green leaves. Flowers are flaming orange-red, and may grow singly or in clumps. Add a pomegranate to your shrubbery border or as a fruitful hedge.

Pomegranates are selfpollinating, so you can plant only one if you wish. For a hedge, plant 6-9 feet apart and let suckers fill in the gaps.

PLANTING + CULTURE

SITE SELECTION

Well-drained, sandy loam soils are preferred, but pomegranates will grow on many soil types if good drainage is provided. Pomegranates will grow more vigorously and produce more fruit in full sun. Avoid frost pockets – trees may be damaged by unseasonable frosts.

SOIL PREPARATION + PLANTING

Pomegranates prefer alkaline soil (pH 6.5 to 7.0 or higher). If you are in doubt about the acidity of your soil, take a soil sample to the Cooperative Extension Agent in your county for a soil test. Adjust soil pH as necessary.

Dig a planting hole approximately three times the width of the pot and at the same depth as the root ball. Set that soil aside and mix it 50/50 with either aged mushroom compost, aged manure, or rotted pine bark & aged manure/compost. Remove the plant from the pot, gently loosen the root ball and place in the planting hole. To avoid burying too deep, make sure plant is positioned with the top most roots at the soil line. Fill the planting hole with the mix of soil and organic matter; gently tamp it in. Water thoroughly to settle the roots and eliminate air pockets. Do NOT put fertilizer in the planting hole. Only apply fertilizer if it is the correct time of year (see Fertilization section below).

If desired, construct a water basin around the base of the tree approximately 36 inches in diameter. Mulch in spring and summer with approximately 4-6 inches of mulch. Pull mulch a couple of inches away from the trunk for good air circulation

FERTILIZATION

The type of fertilizer you choose may be chemical or organic. Make sure that the fertilizer contains iron, zinc, manganese, magnesium, molybdenum, copper and boron. These minor elements are very important to plants and most soils are low in these elements. Application rates vary according to age of plant. See chart below:

| Starter Fertilizer & Soil (Apply at Planting) | Fertilizer to Maintain (Apply Early March, Late May, & Late July) |
|--|--|
| Espoma Bio-tone® Starter Plus Mix Mushroom Compost in Soil | Espoma Tree-tone® |

Notes:

- Follow Instructions on Bag for how much to apply each time.
- Months to Fertilize vary based on your zone. Fertilize 3 times per year. We recommend the 1st fertilization starting after the last Freeze of the winter (Late February/Early March in zone 8) & the last Fertilization being no later than August or even June/July in some of the colder zones 7 & below.)
- Fertilizing too late in the year in colder climates will promote new growth, which will be subject to freeze damage.

See our “Planting a Tree Correctly” Guide & Espoma Bio-tone® and Tree-tone® Fact Sheets on our website for more info.

WATER

The first year is a critical time for the establishment of a new pomegranate. Water thoroughly twice a week on light soils and once a week on clay soils. Soak the entire root system deeply – this usually takes 40-50 minutes. Pomegranates should receive at least 1 inch of water each week for best growth and fruit production. Water regularly, especially during dry periods. Fruit may drop prematurely if insufficiently irrigated during dry spells.

PRUNING + CARE

Pomegranates tend to be bushy and sucker from the root. Fruit wood is formed on older wood so it is wise to choose 4 to 6 well spaced out suckers to train into trunks and remove any new suckers as they emerge through out the summer. Prune out crossing and crowd branches to maintain light within the canopy. Pomegranates are best pruned in early spring rather than winter to remove freeze damaged and dead wood. If trunks are heavily damaged to freezes remove and replace with a newly emerging sucker in the summer. Pomegranates have few pests and diseases. Mites can be controlled with sulfur dust in June while scale insects can be controlled with dormant oil during winter when leaves are not present. A neutral liquid copper spray controls leaf spot.

VARIETIES

A detailed Variety List can be found on our website: justfruitsandexotics.com