

Macadamia

Macadamia integrifolia · Native to Australia

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Evergreen perennial tree
MATURITY 4–7 years to first harvest



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular, then
hardy



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



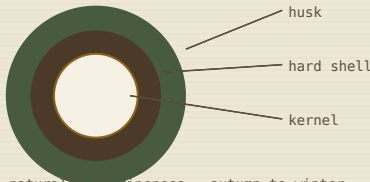
SPACING
7–10m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Nut anatomy

A green husk splits open at ripeness to release the true nut: a hard shell protecting the kernel inside. Nuts drop naturally when ready — collect promptly to beat rats and possums to them.



nuts drop naturally at ripeness — autumn to winter

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant at the same depth as the nursery pot; stake young trees against wind.
SOIL	Deep, well-drained, slightly acidic. Avoid waterlogged or shallow sites.
TIMING	Plant in spring in warm, sheltered spots in subtropical to temperate zones.

04 Problems

- **Nut borer** — larvae damage developing nuts; collect fallen nuts promptly.
- **Rats and possums** — favour the nuts; harvest fallen nuts often.
- **Husk spot** — fungal spotting in humid weather; clear fallen debris.
- **Wind damage** — brittle young wood; stake and shelter early on.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Native groundcovers

Wattle (while young)

AVOID NEARBY

Dense underplanting

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree, productive for decades.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply for the first 2–3 years while roots establish.
- Feed lightly with a balanced, low-phosphorus native fertiliser in spring and autumn.
- Mulch well beyond the drip line to retain moisture and suppress weeds.
- Prune only to shape in early years — mature trees need little pruning.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Nuts drop naturally when ripe, over several weeks in autumn–winter.
METHOD	Collect fallen nuts from the ground regularly to avoid rot and pests.
CURING	Dry in-husk nuts 3–4 weeks in a warm, airy spot before cracking.
STORAGE	Shelled kernels keep months airtight in a cool spot, longer frozen.