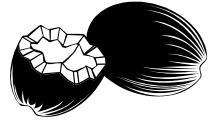


# Wallsend Nurseries

95 Lake Rd Wallsend 2287  
Ph: 49 501066 Fax: 49 516960 Email: gardens1@tpg.com.au



## Nut Notes



Nuts are not often grown in the Newcastle area but are worth a try in most gardens. Many of them can grow into quite large trees given time so will require larger gardens. Soil preparation is the same as for most long-term fruit crops. Plenty of well composted organic material is a necessary addition as well as a generous application of complete or “Citrus” type fertiliser. Lime may be also added if needed to correct soil acidity. If the soil is clay based it will require the addition of some gypsum to help break up the clay & improve drainage. Good soil drainage is essential for most nut varieties. Some, like the Walnut need rich, deep soils to be really successful. An open sunny position is also preferred for most varieties.

The only major obstruction to good nut growing is the relatively high chilling needs of the tree. This means some varieties need to be kept at a low temperature (usually below 7 deg C.) for a period during the dormant season to be able to set flowers & therefore produce a crop of nuts.

### Almonds

Chilling requirement 300-500 hours below 5c. Pollinator required in most cases. Tree grows to approx 5-6m tall. Fruit produced in approx 3-4 years.

### Chestnuts

Grow to approx 30m x 15m. Separate male & female flowers on the one tree. Some varieties will need a pollinator. Nuts are borne after 3-5 years.

### Hazelnuts

Grow to 4-5m x 4m. Chilling requirement of 800-1200 hours below 7c. Two or more plant required to be grown together for pollination. Crops after 3-4 years.

### Macadamias

Grow to approx 15m depending on variety. Self pollinating. No chilling requirement. Grows best in a warm humid environment with good rainfall in early Spring & Summer. Grafted trees will bear in approx 3-4 years. Seedlings can take up to 10 years or more & often produce inferior fruit.

### Pecans

Grow to around 30m under ideal conditions. Chilling requirement is 150-200 hours below 7c. Most are self-fertile but crops are increased if 2 or more varieties are planted together. Nuts are produced after 5 years with the full cropping potential reached after approximately 20 years.

### Pistachios

Absolutely hate the Newcastle climate, rarely surviving the first Summer. This is probably owing to the coastal humidity prevalent in this area. Possibly more successful inland. These tasty nuts require both male & female trees to produce fruit. Grows to 5-7m. Fruit is produced after approx 5 years.

### Walnuts

Grow to 18m x 18m. Requires 500-1000 hours below 7c. Seedling trees take many years to begin cropping. Grafted trees are faster to produce nuts. Mostly self-fertile but some cultivars are better if a pollinator is provided.