

Punica species

Punica granatum

Punica granatum nana – Dwarf to 1m

This is a deciduous easy to grow shrub reaching up to 1.8m in height, may bloom when less than 30cm tall. Great choice for bonsai and also quite popular as a pot plant. Showy, orange-red fruits are very seedy but the pulp is delicious and they last for months.

Pomegranates should be placed in the sunniest, warmest part of the yard or orchard for the best fruit, although they will grow and flower in part shade.

Pollination

The pomegranate is both self-pollinated and cross-pollinated by insects. There is very little wind dispersal of pollen. Cross-pollination has increased yield to 68%.

Climate

The species is primarily mild-temperate to subtropical and naturally adapted to regions with cool Winters and hot Summers and can be severely injured by temperatures below -10°C. This plant favors a semi-arid climate and is extremely drought tolerant.

Soil

The pomegranate thrives on calcareous, alkaline soil and on deep, acidic loam and a wide range of soils in between these extremes. In northern India, it is spontaneous on rockstrewn gravel.

Propagation

Pomegranate seeds germinate readily even when merely thrown onto the surface of loose soil and the seedlings spring up with vigor. Cuttings are set in beds with 1 or 2 buds above the soil for 1 year, and then transplanted to the field.

Grafting has never been successful, but branches may be air-layered and suckers from a parent plant can be taken up and transplanted.