

## Macadamia tetraphylla – Macadamia / Rough Shell QLD Nut

A great Australian Rainforest tree that is Indigenous to Australia and is found naturally growing in the coastal subtropic regions in NSW and QLD.

Growing up to 15m in height, it is densely branched with mid green leaves that have prickly margins, pointed ends and new growth is a reddish colour.

Inflorescences are 10 -25cm long and are axillary on branches and start from late Winter through to mid Spring, the individual flowers are a creamy pink to mauve and are about 10mm long, flowers are pollinated by bees and is self fertile.

Flowers are followed by the fruit which ripens in Summer is 20 - 30mm in diameter, greyish green and turns brown when ripe, the seed inside is delicious raw or cooked!

Best grown in full sun, Macadamia will not grow in shade, it needs a sheltered position and is frost tender. It needs copious amounts of Summer watering in the early stages and as it establishes reduce watering.

Fertilise with a low phosphorus fertiliser during the growing period.

Macadamia is slow growing and takes 6 – 7 years to produce its first fruit.

Pruning is not necessary while still young but if desired can be carried out in the Autumn.

When mature it will become bushier so best to trim dead wood and prune to shape.

### Propagation

**Pre-treatment** – Dehusking is better but seed that we have provided has been dehusked already (fruit coating the brown seed)

Other pre-treatment is not essential but some growers advise soaking the seed in water for 2 days, changing water each day to avoid fermentation.

**Sowing** – Sow seed in the Spring using a good well drained and loose potting media or seed raising mix.

Use small but deep pots to accommodate the long tap root that will develop.

Plant each seed in each of the pots into a hole that is twice as deep as the seed is thick sideways – so that the ridge is parallel with the soil surface.

Place into a greenhouse, on a heatmat or in a warm place to germinate.

Keep moist.

Germination is slow and can take a number of months before a seed sprouts so don't be too hasty throwing away anything!