

# Pomegranate

## Ideal climate

Pomegranates are quite hardy against cold and can take temperatures during winter below 7°C.

Restrictions you might have:

- Need to irrigate, less than citrus, and only in Summer.
- No excessive rain during or just before harvest (end February to end March) this can cause splitting.
- Pomegranates are prone to insect damage (False Codling moth and fruit fly) as well as a Stem Borer in the plants.
- Pomegranates are also prone to get root rot. Thus, really heavy soils should be avoided.

## Cultivars

Wonderful is an open commercial variety, discovered in California (USA). Not patented.

**Fruit characteristic:** Wonderful is the most famous and well know Pomegranate available in the international market. It is a late variety (Harvest around April to mid-May in South Africa).

Wonderful has a dark red internal colour and external red colour, it has a very good brix and acid ratio – which gives its special and famous taste. The fruit has a 1 to 2 months shelf life from its arrival. Fruit weight: +/- 500g (Big size).



### Smith/Angel Red

Discovered in California (USA). Smith pomegranate, also known as Angel Red. Protected by Plant Breeder's Rights – managed by Citrogold – (Once off royalties' fee of **USD 2 per tree**).



**Fruit characteristic:** Deep red fruit with an Avg. fruit mass of 150-225g. Soft and small seeds and a high juice content with a sweet-tart flavour and a Brix reading of 18 %.

**Yield & Harvesting period:** Early variety (February). 4 pickings at 7-10 days intervals with an Avg. tree productivity of 21-40kg.

### Emek

Discovered in Israel. Protected by Plant Breeder's Rights – managed by Citrogold – (Once off royalties' fee of **USD 2 per tree**).



**Fruit characteristic:** Dark pink to red. Has an Avg. fruit mass of 380g with soft, small seeds and High juice content – sweet.

**Yield & Harvesting period:** Early variety (February). Limited planting in South Africa

## General plant characteristic

- Mature height: 3.5m
- Mature width: 1.8-2.5m
- Sunlight: full to partial

## Planting

### Planting density

4x3m = 833 trees / ha

5x3m = 667 trees / ha – *most prominent*

6x3m = 555 trees / ha

Life span of trees: around 25 years

## Planting time

Spring - summer

**Site preparation:** Land preparation by ripping the soil profile 120-150cm deep to break up soil and allow root penetration and water infiltration.

Disk the land for weed control prior planting (winter).

*For more than plants*

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