



CULTIVATION

The trees

Macadamia's are large, magnificent spreading evergreen trees reaching 30 to 40 ft high and almost as wide. They thrive on full sun, regular rainfall and although they will perform on a wide range of soil types, they prefer deep rich soils that are well drained. With full irrigation to each of our trees throughout the summer months, the growing environment in our orchards meets these specifications all year round.

As much as possible we avoid chemical sprays and weed by hand. Each tree is given a good layer of mulch to further encourage root growth and retain moisture. Fertilizer is applied at regular intervals throughout the year as a top dressing.

There are several pests and diseases that affect macadamias although very few of these are present in Western Australia. Black cockatoos being the only concern we have in our orchard up until now. The main problem which affects trees in Western Australia is pthyophthora.cinnamomi (dieback) however it can be easily treated.

The nuts

The shiny dark green leaves of *M. Integrifolia* are 8 to 11 inches in length and occur usually in whorls of three. Flowers are borne on long narrow sprays (racemes) which produce delicate, sweet-smelling white or pink blossoms. Each spray of 40 - 50 flowers produces four to fifteen 'nutlets' which eventually ripen into nuts. The nuts themselves have a very hard, woody seed coat enclosed in a tough, fibrous green husk that splits open as the nut matures. Indicated by the common name of *M. Integrifolia* the seed coat is smooth and about 1 inch in diameter. It holds a creamy white kernel, which when roasted develops a uniform color and texture.

For further information regarding the cultivation and propagation of macadamia trees E-Mail us at info@macnutswa.com.au or visit the following web site:

Australian Macadamia Society - <http://www.macsoc.com.au>