Nikita's Pride™ Almond

Prunus dulcis 'Nikita's Pride'

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

A very late blooming selection with showy pink to white flowers in spring followed by a good crop of very large, high quality nuts; quite ornamental; needs full sun, well-drained soil and a pollinator; flowers can be damaged by late spring frost

Edible Qualities

Nikita's Pride Almond is a small tree that is commonly grown for its edible qualities. It produces large coppery-bronze oval seeds in soft shells with tan overtones and white flesh which are harvested from late summer to mid fall. The seeds have a mild taste with a hard texture and a distinctive fragrance.

The seeds are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Baking

Features & Attributes

Nikita's Pride Almond features showy clusters of fragrant white flowers with coral-pink eyes and pink anthers along the branches from early to mid spring, which emerge from distinctive shell pink flower buds before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves turn yellow and orange in fall.



Nikita's Pride Almond flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Nikita's Pride Almond in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy
- Insects
- Disease

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Nikita's Pride Almond is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Nikita's Pride Almond will grow to be about 12 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more. This variety requires a different selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This tree is typically grown in a designated area of the yard because of its mature size and spread. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.