



Source: [Macadamia](#) | [ICRAF](#),

Watch out for:

- Rats that can cause up to 50% loss.
- Trunk canker disease and extensive root decay.

Macadamia is indigenous to the coastal rainforests of South Queensland and the northern river districts of New South Wales, Australia. It has since been introduced to many- other countries, particularly in Africa. The trees cannot tolerate frost and are suited best to areas where there are alternate wet and dry seasons. The major producing countries include Hawaii, Australia, the USA, Kenya, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Brazil, and Fiji.

The fully mature nut consists of a nearly round nut in hard spherical brown testa, or shell, about 25 mm in diameter and 2-3 mm thick which is in turn surrounded by a fibrous green pericarp some 2 to 4 mm thick. Normally only one nut develops in each fruit. The tree begins to bear fruit when it is about 6-7 years old and has a lifespan of approximately 60 years. Trees can yield between 27 - 68 kg of nuts per year. Nuts have an oil content of 60%.

Trees can be grown from seedlings, but it is suggested that this type of planting yields low oil content as there are too many variations in productivity and kernel quality. A preferred method of planting is by grafting trees of selected varieties. New grafting methods have reduced propagation from 2 years to 1 year and have also increased success from 66.8% - to 94.8%.

Macadamia grows well in regions where the average temperature ranges from 20-25°C, the hottest day temperature is 30-35°C, the coldest day temperature varies from 10-18°C and rainfall is from 1,400-2,500 mm. Macadamia adapts to most types of soil which has good drainage, soil thickness is about 1 m, not degraded, saline, sulfuric, or laterite.