

The Almond Tree	<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	is-Sigra tal-lewż
Common English name	Scientific name	Maltese name

Where is this tree found in the world – (Species Distribution)

The cultivated sweet almond is thought to have originated from Central to South Asia. The almond tree was then disseminated in the Mediterranean and later in North America. It is found in the wild and gardens.

What is the preferred habitat for this tree?

It grows in temperate regions found in arid steppes, mountains, and deserts in Mediterranean climate regions. It has therefore naturalised well in the Maltese Islands, growing wildly in maquis habitats.

Is it green all year (evergreen), or does it change according to the season (deciduous)

It is deciduous, dropping all its leaves by autumn and blooming in spring.

How tall can it grow? (height)

It may grow very tall (max 7m) with elaborate branches.

What are the leaves and flowers like?

The almond trees produce narrow green leaves after it blooms producing numerous symmetrically attractive flowers of a pure white or light, pink colour.



What are the fruits like?

It produces fruits called drupes, consisting of an outer green to brown hull and a hard shell with the seed (almond) inside.

What do humans use this tree for?

Apart from being a beautiful ornamental tree, especially when in full bloom, it is also valuable for the almonds it produces, which may be of economic importance for those that sell them.

Does this tree have legal protection?

It is not protected if planted for agricultural purposes for its fruit or oil production in a field registered for agricultural use with the Agriculture Directorate and used by a registered farmer (according to the ERA 2018 list of trees and woodland protection regulations).