



Pomegranate Planting Guide

About Pomegranate

Growing dwarf pomegranate (*Punica granatum* var. *nana*) from seeds is a rewarding process. A compact version of this attractive deciduous shrub typically reaches a height of three to five feet and has been cultivated for both ornamental purposes and its edible fruit. The fruit contains numerous seeds, each surrounded by a fleshy crimson seed coating and encased in a sturdy yellowish to deep red rind. Originally hailing from Persia, pomegranates are enjoyed either fresh or used to make grenadine syrup. Keep in mind that the dwarf variety doesn't have the same sweet taste of its larger counterpart.

When to Plant

This seed is generally best sown in spring, avoiding the coldest and hottest months of the year. The optimum germination temperature for this variety is around 65°F to 75°F.

Where to Plant

Ideal growing temperatures are between 65 to 85°F in full sun. Dwarf pomegranates are frost-sensitive, so provide protection or move indoors in colder climates.

How to Plant

Start seeds indoors six to eight weeks before the last frost date. Soak the seeds in warm water for 24 hours to enhance germination. To start indoors, use a seed starting mix in small pots or trays. Plant seeds at a depth of about ¼ inch and cover lightly with soil. Place your starts in a warm area that is kept around 70°F. Water when the top inch of soil feels dry and keep soil consistently moist but not water logged. Provide direct sunlight or use grow lights. Germination generally occurs in around 14 to 28 days in the right conditions.

Harden off seedlings by gradually exposing them to outdoor conditions. Plant in a sunny location with well-draining loamy, and slightly acidic soil.

If directly sowing outdoors, pomegranate seeds are best planted in spring after the danger of frost has passed.

Caring for Pomegranate

Dwarf Pomegranate plants love sunlight. Ensure they get at least six hours of direct sunlight per day. Water regularly to keep the soil evenly moist, especially during dry spells. Fertilize with a balanced fertilizer during the growing season. Reduce watering in winter when plant growth slows down. Prune to shape the plant and remove any dead or diseased branches.

Dwarf pomegranate plants are often used for ornamental purposes, bonsai, or container gardening. Bonsai pruning can best be done during winter dormancy when there are no leaves in the way. During the growing season, new shoots are trimmed when they have reached a length of approximately four to six inches. If you want flowers to develop, do not trim the shoots before flowering because the flower buds grow at the tips of the new shoots. Don't let too many fruits develop in order not to weaken the tree. In hot and dry climates pomegranate bonsai in small pots should be protected from hot afternoon sun in summer.

Remember, patience is key when growing dwarf pomegranates from seeds. It might take a few years for the plants to mature and produce flowers and fruits. Regular care in terms of watering, sunlight, and temperature management will ensure healthy growth whether indoors or outdoors.