Almonds

Planting Specifications
- 12-15’ semi-dwarf
- Native to Middle East and Asia
- Varieties: Reliable, an almond/peach hybrid
- Must have well drained soil
- As reliable is a peach almond hybrid, growth and management are very similar to peaches. The main difference being the pit of the fruit is the almond you eat!
- Nuts must be cracked and roasted for best results
- At initial planting, we recommend planting allium companion plants (like chives) to deter pests

Common Pests and Diseases
Other diseases or pests may be present, but these are the ones most commonly found in St. Louis.

Codling Moth and Oriental Fruit Moth: Small gray/brown moths that eat the fruit inside out
Treatment: Bt inclusion in 4th holistic spray, Bt sprays, sunflower companion planting

Peach Tree Borer: Moth larvae that bore into the trunk and branches, weakening or killing the tree
Treatment: Bt inclusion in 4th holistic spray, wrapping trunk with window screening, kaolin clay past painted on the trunk, alliums planted around trunk

Peach Leaf Curl: Fungal infection that infects the leaves, causing them to curl up and fall off
Treatment: Copper applications when tree is dormant

Perennial Canker: Fungal infection that infects winter injury to bark, leads to branch death
Treatment: Prune right before bloom, remove infected material, apply mustard oil or mustard green poultice to cankers

Gateway Greening Classes and Resources
Holistic Sprays- Recipes and ingredients available to Giving Grove projects
Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt), kaolin clay, liquid copper, mustard greens seed packets – Available for purchase from our Gateway Greening store

Orchard Classes- Summer Pruning, Dormant Fruit Tree Pruning, Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest. Schedules available on our website and Facebook page

Companion plant recommendations- handout available on website

Timeline of Care

Spring Care
- Application of four holistic sprays (liquid fish, pure neem oil, effective microbes) every few weeks once leaves start emerging and ending once fruits have formed (Late February to Mid-May)
- Complete the big yearly pruning. Almonds only produce on new growth, so almonds can be pruned heavily, up to 33% of the branches (Late February to Mid-March)
- Remove any tree wraps placed in winter (Early April)
- For the first three years, remove all fruitlets to prevent fruit/nut production (Late April to Early May)

Summer Care
- No need to thin fruits since the pit is what produces the almond, so spend the summer checking for pests and disease

Fall Care
- Start collecting almond pits that have fallen. These hold the almond inside! (August through October)
- While harvesting, remove any mummified fruits and dispose of outside of the orchard to prevent disease spread (August through October)
- Cut back or harvest allium companion plant (September through November)
- Remove or shred all fallen leaves to prevent diseases from spreading (Mid-October to November)
- Fifth holistic spray once all leaves have been disposed of (November)
- Install tree wraps to protect trees from rabbits and voles (Late November)
- Apply a new layer of mulch to the base of the tree (November)

Ongoing Care
- During the first full growing season, water 5 gallons per plant per week, with the exception of weeks with substantial rain. After the first year, trees only need to be watered during droughts
- Weed the mulch ring
- Plant any desired companion plants to benefit the orchard ecosystem (Spring or Fall)