

"Macadamia is a moderately hardy tree for south Florida and produces a very high quality nut in one to five years. ECHO sells air-layered trees that are capable of producing nuts one year after propagation. The tree does not require high soil fertility, but will probably need granular or foliar micronutrient sprays of zinc, iron, and manganese (take care not to over fertilize). Good soil drainage is also required. Mature trees can withstand 25-26°F for short periods with minor damage to the foliage. Young trees and foliage are very tender and are killed very near freezing. Temperatures of 27° F and lower damages flowers and young fruit, reducing production. Nuts can be cracked open using a PVC cutter or after roasting. To roast, simply place nuts, shells included, on a cookie sheet in the oven at 300° F for 15 minutes. Turn oven off and let nuts cool inside on tray. Kernels will shrink some and shell will become brittle and easy to crack. A few mature macadamia trees are located in the arboretum.

'Dana White' is the most prolific bearer in Florida. It was developed in Homestead. When blooming, the tree is nearly white with blossoms. It may be one of the more cold hardy varieties for Florida use. The nut tastes the same as the Arkin variety but is contained in a very hard shell.

The Macadamia is highly prized for its delicious nuts. It is an excellent tree for a dense barrier that is low maintenance and drought tolerant once established. Also in its favor is its cold-hardiness, tolerating the low 20°'s. When fertilizing, use half of the recommended rate listed on the container. Native to Australia.