

Plum

Prunus domestica / *Prunus salicina* · Rose family

DIFFICULTY Easy–moderate
TYPE Deciduous perennial tree
MATURITY 2–3 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



SPACING
4–5m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Among the easiest stone fruit

Plums are generally more forgiving than peaches or apricots — lower chill requirements for many varieties and fewer disease issues, making them a solid first stone fruit tree.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant bare-rooted while dormant.
SOIL	Well-drained, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant.

04 Problems

- **Fruit fly** — net or bag ripening fruit.
- **Brown rot** — improve airflow, remove affected fruit.
- **Aphids** — cluster on new growth; hose off.
- **Silverleaf** — fungal disease entering through winter pruning wounds; prune in summer instead.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Basil

Garlic

AVOID NEARBY

Tomato

ROTATION NOTE

Avoid replanting stone fruit in old stone fruit ground.

03 Growing care

- Check whether your variety needs a pollinator — some are self-fertile, others aren't.
- Prune in summer rather than winter to reduce disease entry.
- Thin fruit if heavily set.
- Water deeply through fruit development.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour, slight give when gently squeezed.
METHOD	Twist gently from the stem.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Room temperature a few days, or fridge up to 2 weeks.