

3

What nut grows where?

Whether looking for land upon which to grow a particular nut, or looking for a suitable nut crop for your farm there are numerous things to consider. Detailed requirements for production of each type of nut are given in the specific nut chapters. A short list of the general factors to consider when assessing the suitability of a location for growing nuts follows.

Climate

Suitable climatic conditions for each type of nut vary from tropical to cool temperate. One of the best ways of finding out where a particular nut grows well is to find out where the different nuts are grown. Travelling to nut orchards and talking to the growers about the climate and how it affects nut production is highly informative. Generally, if a nut crop is popular in a particular region the conditions in that region are suitable for that nut. Simply knowing the particular weather data for temperature and rainfall is not sufficient. When introducing a nut crop to a new area, assessment must be extremely thorough. Factors to consider in assessing the climatic suitability of a location for nut production include:

Temperature range

Research all weather data recorded for the particular area, noting seasonal temperature extremes. While some nuts such as cashews, pecans and macadamias require long hot summers, other nuts such as walnuts can be damaged by sunburn in very hot conditions.

Winter temperatures are also very important because deciduous nut trees require a certain amount of chilling to ripen the fruiting wood, while other nut trees, such as macadamia, can be damaged by frost. Within each nut type too, some cultivars may suit a particular location while others do not. For instance, where there are late frosts in spring,