



Columnar Plums - Planting, Care, and Growing Features

Mini-brochure - Landscape, print-friendly (ASCII-only)

- Full sun, sheltered from strong wind; avoid frost pockets on bloom.
- Rootstock and vigor: choose dwarfing or compact rootstock suited to columnar training.
- Pollination: some plums are self-fertile, many need a compatible partner; match bloom group.
- Space: rows 1.5 to 2.0 m; in-row spacing 0.6 to 1.0 m depending on vigor.
- Container option: 40 to 60 L container with drainage; stake the central leader.

Planting - spacing and steps

Spacing	0.6 to 1.0 m between trees; rows 1.5 to 2.0 m; hedgerow width 50 to 60 cm.
Hole & depth	Hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth. Set at nursery depth; do not bury graft union.
Soil	Well-drained loam; slightly acidic to neutral. Mix in compost; avoid fresh manure.
Stake	Install a sturdy stake and tie the central leader loosely at intervals.
Mulch	Mulch 5 to 8 cm, keeping away from trunk.

Watering and feeding

Water	About 2.5 to 4 cm per week during establishment and fruit swell; more in pots. Drip or slow soaker preferred.
Feeding	In early spring apply a balanced fertilizer per label, or top-dress with compost. In containers, feed lightly every 4 to 6 weeks in season.

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Training and pruning - keep a slender column

Central leader	Maintain one straight leader tied to a stake. Do not head unless damaged; replace with the best upright shoot.
Laterals	In summer, shorten side shoots to about 10 to 15 cm to create fruiting spurs; remove crossing or inward shoots.
Spur and shoot balance	Plums can crop on spurs and young shoots depending on variety. Thin crowded spurs in winter to avoid overbearing.
Fruit thinning	After June drop, thin to one fruit per cluster and about 10 to 15 cm apart along the column to prevent branch bending.

Pests and diseases - quick view

Common issues	Aphids, plum moth, spider mites; brown rot, leaf curl in some regions, silver leaf on pruning wounds.
Prevention	Prune for airflow and light; sanitize tools; avoid pruning in wet weather; remove mummified fruit.
Action	Use traps where appropriate; insecticidal soap for small pests; cut out diseased wood into healthy tissue and destroy.

Seasonal calendar

Spring	Plant, stake, and tie in; feed; protect blossom from late frost if possible.
Summer	Water steadily; summer prune and spur-trim laterals; thin fruit; monitor for pests and brown rot.
Autumn	Harvest by variety timing; top up mulch; remove mummified fruit and fallen leaves.
Winter	Check ties and stakes; light structural prune in dry weather; thin crowded spurs; avoid heavy cuts in very wet periods.

Column plan worksheet

Variety / pollinator	Spacing or pot size	Stake and ties	Pruning notes	Action date

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