

# ENVIRONMENT

## BUDWOOD & NURSERY SALES

High health status varietal budwood is available to nurseries for grafting to ensure plantings have the best start possible. This material is produced at ABA managed motherplanting sites that are tested annually for viruses.

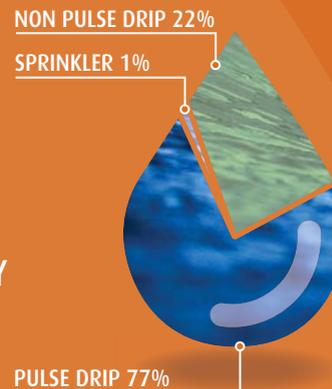
The commercial life of an almond tree is around 30 years. Some of the orchards planted in the Adelaide Plains and Riverland regions are now entering a replanting phase.



**180,000**  
hives are used to  
pollinate the  
Australian  
almond orchard.



**ALMONDS ARE ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST HIGH VALUE, EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WATER CONVERTERS**



## WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Australian almond growers are world leaders in efficient use of water. Almonds produce a high value return per megalitre of water applied. Current use of water by the almond industry is approximately 14 megalitres per hectare for mature orchards.

Water use efficiency is aided by sophisticated irrigation systems that ensure water application matches tree requirements and minimises environmental impact. 99% of orchards use efficient drip irrigation that allows for precise timing and rates of irrigation and the remaining 1% of orchards use low level micro sprinklers.

The Almond Board of Australia works with growers to continue to transfer knowledge to help growers fine-tune their irrigation practices.

## BIOMASS USAGE

The ability to use the almond kernel in a range of value added products means there is no waste of the nut seed and the same applies to the outer shell and hull of the almond. The hull is used as a nutritious, protein rich food for livestock or is composted to be used to improve garden and farm soils.

The shell is used to generate electricity, mulch or livestock bedding.

International research is being conducted into new alternative uses including producing food grade sugars, plastics, natural absorbent materials and as part of a process to produce fish and poultry foods.

The almond delivers value on many fronts in addition to being a delicious and healthy food.

## BEES & POLLINATION

Almonds and honeybees are vital to one another. Almond blossoms provide one of the first natural sources of food for bees each spring. Australia currently uses approximately 180,000 hives during the pollination season, and this figure will rise quickly as new orchards mature and more are planted. Hives arrive into orchards just before the trees begin to blossom in July. Bees forage for pollen and nectar in the orchards as the trees blossom. Whilst moving from tree to tree they pollinate blossoms along with pollen from other varieties. In almonds, nuts will only develop when a flower is correctly pollinated.

The pollen in almond blossoms is an excellent source of nutrients for bees and helps hives grow stronger, so that after almond bloom many beekeepers split their hives to grow their apiaries. After almonds, bees are moved throughout other crops.

