

Two different varieties and their hybrids are of importance in commercial cultivation: *Macadamia integrifolia* (also *M. ternifolia*) and *macadamia tetraphylla*.

M. tetraphylla is most suited to cooler locations. It originates in Australia between the southern latitudes 27° and 29°. *M. integrifolia* comes from southern latitude 23°-27°, and is better suited to warmer, dryer locations.

Different characteristics				
<i>M. integrifolia</i>	3 leaves per leaf whorl	White blossoms	Leaves hardly spiked	Smooth-shelled
<i>M. tetrapylla</i>	4 leaves per leaf whorl	Pink blossoms	Leaves mostly spiked	Rough-shelled

To this day, more *M. integrifolia*-varieties have been planted because cross-breeding cultivation of the macadamia began on Hawaii, where *M. tetraphylla* is not so well-adapted to the climate. The crop then spread from Hawaii into other countries. For this reason, there are many adapted varieties of *M. integrifolia*-varieties at different sites.

Organic cultivation has only really just begun on a small scale in Australia and New Zealand; in Kenya, large areas are being converted³. High-yield varieties can cause problems on organic cultivations, because they require a larger amount of nutrients, and are more susceptible to drought, diseases and pests⁴. When selecting a variety for planting, it is essential to have accurate knowledge of the site's weather conditions.