

PAPAYA PLANTING GUIDE



Papaya is a tropical fruit having commercial importance because of its high nutritive and medicinal value. They are low in calories and high in potassium, vitamin A and C.

ECOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

Rainfall-Papaya require an annual rainfall of above 1000mm per year and irrigation should be done in low rainfall regions prolonged because it cannot withstand drought.

Temperature requirements is about 21-33

Soils- Papaya prefer fertile soils with good drainage of about 6.5. They don't do well in heavy soils like clay soils.

NURSERY PREPARATION

- ☐ Seeds are planted in 66 holed trays which are bigger in size compared to the 150 holed trays.
- ☐ Fill the holes with planting media preferably peat moss and make shallow seed holes then place the seed at the center of the holes.
- ☐ Cover shallowly with the same media, water and cover in a cool area with a polythene black paper.
- ☐ Regularly keep checking the moisture and water when necessary.
- ☐ Seeds germinate within a period of 2-3 weeks.
- ☐ Conduct nursery management practices such as spraying of pesticides, fungicides and foliar.

LAND PREPARATION AND TRANSPLANTING

- A thorough land preparation is necessary for early crop establishment and adequate weed control.
- Slash, remove stumps and stones where necessary, and clear debris.
- Double plough, harrow and/or rotovate field to a fine tilth where necessary, line and peg.
- Measure a 60cm by 60 cm hole then transplant the seedlings with a mixture of sub soil and farm yard manure.
- The seedlings are transplanted when they have attained 3 to 4 leaves or 15 to 20 cm height.
- While handling careful transplanting of the seedlings is important to avoid disturbing the roots.
- The seedlings should be well hardened before any transplanting can take place.
- It is also recommended to use foliar to reduce the transplanting shock.
- Water the newly transplanted seedlings regularly until they are fully established



MATURITY AND HARVESTING

Papaya start to flower 5 to 8 months after transplanting and the fruits are ready for harvesting approximately 2 months after flowering.

Only mature fruits should be harvested because they do not mature all at the same time.

It is recommended to only harvest just before ripening.

The fruits should be handled carefully not to bruise them.

It is recommended to wash the fruit to remove any substance that could affect the shelf life.

Yield per plant is expected to be 40 to 50 fruits per harvest and royal seed pawpaw varieties have 3 flashes per year. In a year expect 50 to 100 fruits per plant per year.



SUMMARIZED NURSERY MANAGEMENT



Disclaimer:

Please note that the planting guides have been compiled with utmost care, but the information should be handled by the user in accordance with his own knowledge and experience of circumstances on the ground. We therefore cannot accept any liability in connection with the information on the planting guide.