

The Mango

Mangifera indica

The mango is one of the most important tropical fruits in the world. The fruits grow on large evergreen trees from ten to one-hundred feet tall. In Florida, mangos bloom from December to April depending on climate and variety, with fruits ripening three to four months after the bloom season. Trees will begin to bear fruit by the second to third year after planting.



Planting: Mango trees require full sun and an area at least fifteen feet wide to grow into. Mangos can grow in a wide variety of soils. However, sandy or clay soils should be amended with **Kerby's Potting Soil**.

Watering: Do not count on a sprinkler system or rain to water your new tree. For the first month, soak thoroughly each day, always in the morning. For the second and third month, soak thoroughly every other day and for the remainder of the first year, make sure the tree is soaked thoroughly once a week. In the hot summer months, pay attention to the tree and water more if necessary.

Fertilizer: Use 1 tablespoon of **Kerby's Special Fertilizer** every month for the first year. During years two and three, increase the amount proportional to tree size using a full tablespoon per foot of tree height. Do not fertilize the tree while it has flowers or fruit on it as it can affect the taste of the fruit.

Climate: All varieties of mangos are sensitive to the cold. Young trees must be protected when temperatures drop below 32°F. Older trees can survive a few hours at 27°F although they may lose smaller outer branches and leaves. Flowers and small fruits can be damaged if temperatures fall below 40°F.

Fruit: Grafted trees bear in 2 – 3 years. Pick fruit when the first fruit colors. Allow fruit to ripen off tree at 70-75°F. A dry season before and during bloom encourages a better crop.

Pruning: If desired, prune after fruit harvest. Pruning will not harm the tree but may decrease fruit production in the following season.

Disease and Pests: A common disease of mangos in Florida is *anthracnose*. Anthracnose fungus attacks flowers, young fruits, leaves and twigs. Symptoms appear as black, slightly sunken lesions of irregular shape, which gradually enlarge and cause blossom blight, leaf spotting, fruit staining, and fruit rot. Disease development is encouraged by rains or heavy dews. Preventing anthracnose is as simple as spraying monthly during the most humid months with Liquid Copper Fungicide.

Enjoy: There is nothing more rewarding than harvesting fresh fruit right off your own tree, so get your mango orchard started with one of the many tasty varieties from Kerby's Nursery.