

Mangos

Info Sheet

Selecting a Mango and Planting Site

Plant your mango trees where they have adequate space for growth, maximum exposure to sunlight, good air circulation, and adequate irrigation and drainage. If your yard tends to stay wet during the rainy season, it is very important to build a berm and plant your tree on it to allow for drainage. In extreme conditions where hardpan or marl are involved, better drainage can be accomplished by breaking through the hard layer and packing gypsum around the remaining hardpan or marl. As the tree roots grow, the gypsum will abrade and break up more of the hard layer.

Mangos are not cold-hardy and will need protection during a freeze. There seems to be very little difference in cold hardiness among the different mango varieties, though it should be noted that little research has been done in this regard. Ideally, mangos should be planted to the south and west of your home, generally the warmest spots in your yard.

Mangos are self-pollinating and bear in one to four years, depending upon the size of the mango tree at purchase. Perhaps the three most important factors that should be considered when choosing a mango are the presence or absence of fiber, variations in taste among the varieties, and resistance to insects and fungal diseases. To help in deciding, consult the chart on the back of this handout, the information signs attached to the individual trees, and the nursery professionals here at Rockledge Gardens.

Planting Instructions

Mangos are tolerant of most soil conditions, but do best in improved soil with good drainage. The object in preparing the soil is to make it porous, yet still have water holding capabilities. Prepare the soil by adding 1 part organic matter—such as our **Rockledge Gardens Planting Mix**—to 1 to 2 parts existing soil (use more Planting Mix in sandier soil). Use this mix to backfill the hole. Add a few cups of **Espoma Citrus-Tone** when planting. Work it into the soil alongside the rootball while planting and sprinkle some on the surface. Reapply around the tree surface every 2 months. These organic products will stimulate root growth for quicker establishment.

The planting hole should be wider, but no deeper, than the rootball. When planted, the tree should be no higher or lower in the ground than it was in the pot.

When removing the tree from the container, use care: do this right next to the hole you have just prepared. Examine the tree roots closely for injury. If any of the roots are crushed or broken, cut them at a point just inside of the injury. If there are roots encircling more than one-third of the root ball, cut these by making 3 vertical cuts spaced equally around the rootball. This will not harm the tree if it is properly watered. Prune any broken branches just beyond the collar. If some of the dirt falls off of the rootball, don't panic. Carefully place the tree into the hole and backfill with your mixture.

Eliminate air pockets by using a gentle stream of water. Form a ridge of soil 2 to 3 inches high around the margin of the hole to serve as a reservoir when watering.

Watering

When temperatures are in the 80s, water your tree daily the first two weeks by filling the water reservoir (or use two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter). In cooler weather, water every other day. Weeks 3 and 4, water every other day (twice a week in cooler weather). Continue in two week stages until you're applying water only once per week. During periods of drought, you should supply even mature trees with an inch of water weekly. Mango trees should not be watered with water from wells containing 2,300 ppm or more of salt.

Fertilization

After planting, wait about one month before fertilizing. Then apply **Espoma Citrus-tone** every 2 months or **Sunniland Citrus** fertilizer 3 times per year (March, June and September) in the amount of one-half pound (approximately 1 cup) per foot of tree height, up to a maximum of 5 pounds per application for mature trees. Scatter the fertilizer evenly from near the trunk of the tree up to at least the dripline. **Do not use fertilizer spikes!**

Spray the tree with **Maxicrop Liquid Seaweed** at least twice a year in March and November to boost the immune system of the tree, making it more resistant to insect and fungal problems. **Never use "weed and feed" products near your tree!**

Pests & Disease

The best advice for insect and disease control is to prevent problems by following good cultural practices as outlined above. Drought-stressed, badly planted, and improperly fertilized plants are more susceptible to pest and disease problems than well-nourished plants.

Anthrachnose is the most common fungal disease seen in mangos. The disease is evidenced by small dark round spots that occur on the leaves, usually at the start of the rainy season. Two to three weekly applications of **Dithane** should stop the disease from further spread.



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Variety Name	Season	Size (lbs)	Skin Color/Blush	Production	Fiber	Growth	Notes
Alphonso	June-July	½ - ¾	golden yellow	very good	none	vigorous	outstanding sweetness & flavor
Baileys Marvel	Jul-Aug	¾ - 1 ½	yellow/pink	good	little	moderately fast	highly aromatic; slight orange flavor
Beverly	late	1 - 2	yellow	good	little	mod/spreading	rich flavor
Bombay	July	¾ - 1 ½	yellow/red/pink	very good	little	very fast	excellent eaten fresh or in chutnies & mango salsa
Carrie	June-July	¾ - 1	yellow/no blush	fair	none	vigorous/ rounded/dense	semi-dwarf; highly desirable; compact canopy; rich, sweet & spicy flavor; anthracnose resistant
Cogshall	June-July	¾ - 1	yellow-orange/red	good	little	mod/semi-dwarf	rich & spicy; soft lemon-yellow flesh; dense tree
Dot	June-Aug	¾ - 1	yellow/pink blush	good	little	mod/med open	aromatic, sweet & delicious; extended harvest
Duncan	July-Aug	1 - 1 ½	yellow/no blush	good	none	vigorous/open	excellent taste; resistant to anthracnose; soft
Edward	June-July	¾ - 1	yellow/pink to red	fair but consistent	none	vigorous/dense	flavor sweet, spicy & rich; juicy & melting; considered one of the finest Florida mangos
Florigon	June-July	½ - 1	yellow	good	little	vigorous	excellent quality; outstanding taste; small seed
Glenn	June-July	¾ - 1	yellow/orange-red	heavy	little	moderately fast	rich & spicy flavor; strong, pleasant aroma
Graham	June-Aug	1 - 1 ½	golden yellow	good	little	moderately fast	especially aromatic; "condo" mango
Haden	June-July	¾ - 1 ½	yellow/red	very heavy/ consistent	lots	very fast/ spreading	firm & juicy flesh; good to excellent eating; susceptible to anthracnose
Ice Cream	June-July	¼ - ¾	green/yelloow	good	little	semi-dwarf	sweet, rich flavor
Irwin	June	¾ - 1	yellow/red	excellent	none	moderate/open	sweet & mild flavor; juicy; fruit often in clusters
Jakarta	June-Aug	1 ¼ - 1 ¾	yellow/orange-red	heavy	little	vigorous/dense	flavor rich, spicy & slightly resinous
Julie	July	½ - ¾	pink/yellow	good	little	slow, dwarf	dwarf; unique "coconuty" flavor
Keitt	Aug-Sept	¾ - 4	yellow/pink to red	heavy	little	moderate/open	firm, leading late commercial mango in Florida; good anthracnose resistance; sweet & mild flavor
Kent	Jul-Aug	1 - 2 ½	yellow/red	fair	little	vigorous/large, upright/compact	considered one of the best tasting Florida mangos; rich, sweet flavor; weak but pleasant aroma
Lancetilla	Aug-Sept	5	red		none	vigorous/compact	tree can be maintained at 10 feet; firm, sweet fruit
Lemon Meringue	June-July	½ - ¾	yellow with orange blush	good	none	medium-size tree	tart yet sweet with lemony aroma; extremely fungus resistant
Mallika	June-July	¾ - 1	yellow/pink	very good	none	vigorous	tree can be kept small; sweet & honey-like
Manila	June-July	¼ - ¾	green-yellow/pink	good	varies	vigorous/open	rich, spicy & sweet; juicy; large upright tree
Miracle (Choc-anon)	Nov-Jan	¾ - 1	golden yellow	good	none	vigorous/dense	a winter mango! sweet & firm; tree is very vigorous
Nam Doc Mai	June-July	¾ - 1 ½	green-yellow/none	fair	none	vigorous/dense	unique flavor; rich, spicy & very sweet
Okrun Tong	Jun-Aug	¼ - ½	greenish-yellow	heavy	yes	moderate/dense	flavor mild & very sweet; can be eaten when green
Palmer	Jul-Sept	1 - 1 ¾	yellow-orange/red	good	little	moderate/tight	mild & aromatic flavor; fruit colors red very early
Philippine	June-July	½ - ¾	yellow/no blush	good	little	vigorous/dense	unique flavor; rich, aromatic & medium sweet
Southern Blush	July	¾ - 2	red/yellow	good	little	moderate	long shelf life; very juicy
Spirit of '76	June-July	¾ - 1	yellow/dark red	good	none	mod/spreading	rich, aromatic & sweet flavor; soft, juicy flesh
Springfels	July-Aug	1 ¾ - 3	yellow/dark red	good	little	mod/compact	rich, aromatic & sweet flavor; firm & juicy
Tebow	Jul-Aug	1	yellow & pink	excellent	none	vigorous/large	cross between a Kent & an Edwards results in a heavy producing tree with superb fiberless fruit
Tommy Atkins	June	¾ - 2	yellow/dark red	heavy/ consistent	med	vigorous/dense	firm & juicy; mild & sweet flavor; commercially important; highly anthracnose resistant
Valencia Pride	July	¾ - 2	yellow/pink-red	med-heavy	little	vigorous/open	mild & sweet; firm, melting, juicy, strong aroma
Van Dyke	Jul-Aug	½ - 1 ¼	yellow/bright red	heavy	little	moderate/open/ large canopy	flavor rich, spicy & sweet with strong aroma; good resistance to anthracnose; firm, melting & juicy
Zill	June-July	½ - ¾	yellow/dark red	good	none	vigorous/open	mild & sweet flavor with a strong aroma; juicy