

PACKAGE OF PRACTICES

CROP: PAPAYA

Particulars/ operations	Details of operation
Climate And Soil Condition	Papaya is a tropical plant, very sensitive to frost. Optimum temperature is 25 - 30° C. Well Drained sandy loam soil with a pH of 6-6.5 is ideal for Papaya cultivation. Maintenance of suitable soil moisture is necessary for the growth of papaya plants, although dry climate at the time of ripening is good for the fruit quality.
Planting	Seedlings of 10-15cm tall are ideal for planting, and 30-40cm tall seedlings can also be used, if they are sown in a larger container. A 40-60 cm high bed is required if the soil is not well drained. The spacing between rows is about 1.5-2.0 m, and 1.2 m between plants.
Plant Nutrition	The plant needs continuous fertilization, as fruiting is continuous upon maturity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basal fertilization: Apply 4 tons of well decomposed compost per acre before planting or when forming beds. The same dose should be repeated every year for the adult plants. ● Side dressing: Best results have been obtained by giving 250 g of nitrogen, 250 g of phosphorus, and 500 g of potash to each plant each year, divided into 6 applications. Consider applying 2.5-5g of borax per plant before the dry season.
Cultural Practice	<p>Weed Control: Weeds should be removed at the young stage frequently and lightly. Care should be taken not to damage the shallow roots. Growers may apply herbicide once before an emergency; or mulch the bed with the plastic film before transplanting to control the weeds, soil erosion and water loss.</p> <p>Irrigation: Irrigation regimes vary with soil, climatic conditions, and method of irrigation. Care should be taken to prevent water from coming in contact with the stem.</p> <p>Other important practices: Remove the side shoots of the stem as soon as possible, Cut the old, dry, or disease leaves and petioles. Thin the fruits, which are poorly pollinated, malformed or pest- infected. However, while carrying out the above operations, care to be taken not to transmit viruses by mechanical means.</p>
Plant Protection for Major Biotic stress	<p>Papaya Ring Spot Virus (PRSV) and Papaya Leaf-Distortion Mosaic Virus (PLDMV): These are key viral diseases of Papaya, and this cannot be controlled by using chemicals, once the disease is set in.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transplant at a time when there are relatively few winged aphids, and protect the seedlings. 2. Mulch silver and black plastic film to deter winged aphids from visiting young seedlings. 3. Remove and burry the whole infected plant once found 4. Do not touch the healthy plants if your hand or foot is contaminated with infected plants. 5. Use effective control methods for Aphids. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Removing alternative hosts and the presence of natural predators can effectively reduce aphid populations. ● Spraying of insecticides such as: Fastac, Decis or Karate on the undersides of the leaves is also an effective control measure.
Expected yield	In general, papaya takes six months to flower and another five for harvesting; but it may vary according to climate conditions and management. For shipping to distant markets the fruits should be harvested when the apical end starts turning yellow and the latex is no longer milky. During the cold months the fruits can be left on the tree to develop deeper color and obtain better flavor. Average papaya orchard can yield upto 75-100 tonnes/ha.