



Mango

Annie Black, Information Extension Officer, DPIFM Darwin

Site Selection: Mangoes will grow in a wide range of soils but deep, well drained soil is preferable.

Ground Preparation: The hole should be 2-3 times the size of the container and plant the tree with the top of the potting mix level with the soil surface.

Planting Material: Use grafted trees where possible. Trees grown from seeds become too big, take longer to fruit and the fruit quality can vary from the parent. Grafted mango trees are available from nurseries.

Irrigation:

- **Trees up to 3-years old** – under tree sprinklers with deflector caps or similar spread the water evenly and will be sufficient for 2-3 years. Irrigate regularly using 100-300 L/tree/week depending on the soil type, tree size and time of year. Mulch around the base of the plant to maintain soil moisture.
- **Mature trees** – if possible withhold water from the end of the wet until flowering. Once flowering commences thoroughly soak the soil (12-24 hours of irrigation), then apply approximately 600 L/tree/week divided into three applications to prevent excessive water and nutrients loss.

Nutrition:

Age of tree	Fertiliser (recommended ratio)	Rate	AgLime	Frequency
Planting	50 g super phosphate, 100 g dolomite in the hole			At planting
Year 1	14N, 14P, 12K + TE	75 g	50 g	Every 2 months
Year 2	14N, 14P, 12K + TE	150 g	100 g	Every 2 months
Year 3	14N, 14P, 12K + TE	400 g	300 g	Every 3 months
Year 4	14N, 14P, 12K + TE	800 g	500 g	Every 6 months
Mature trees	5N, 10P, 10K + TE	1-1.5 kg	* 1 kg	At flowering
Mature trees	14N, 14P, 12K + TE	1-1.5 kg	1 kg	After harvest

* Use gypsum rather than Aglime at flowering.

Pests: Some of the pests include caterpillars, red-banded thrips, mango leafhopper, flatids, scale insects, mealy bugs and fruit flies. Visit <http://pestinfo.nt.gov.au/>

Diseases: There are a few diseases of mango that are of concern to the home grower. These are anthracnose, stem end rot, mango scab and bacterial black spot.

Pruning: The main purpose of pruning is to shape and keep the tree open to facilitate insect control and allow light into the tree which encourages clean and well coloured fruit. Prune mature trees after harvest while a young tree (non-bearing) can be pruned anytime. Cut back tips when the plant reaches 1 m to encourage branching. Repeat at the end of each branch to further shape the tree. Thin out overcrowded branches; remove dead and diseased wood and low branches. The tree can be kept smaller by removing all branches over 3-4 m in height each year.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND MINES

Crops, Forestry and Horticulture Division
 GPO Box 3000
 Darwin NT 0801
 Tel: 08 8999 2357
 Fax: 08 8999 2049
 Email: horticulture@nt.gov.au
 Web: www.horticulture.nt.gov.au

Disclaimer:

While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is correct, the information covered is subject to change. The Northern Territory Government does not assume and hereby disclaims any express or implied liability whatsoever to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, whether these errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause.

Harvest: Harvest fruit when the skin colour changes from dark green to light green, the skin texture changes from rough to a smooth tight appearance, and the shoulders and beak (top and bottom of the fruit) fill out. The inside flesh should be lemon-yellow in colour. A good indicator of when the fruit is ready to harvest is the presence of fruit bats, possum and birds.

Warning: *Mango sap can cause severe burns and allergic reactions in susceptible persons. Protective clothing should be worn when harvesting and de-stemming the fruit.*

Post Harvest: Ripening can be hastened by wrapping fruit in newspaper and placing it in a dark cupboard. Fruit can be dried, cheeks can be frozen or pureed for use in your favourite recipes and drinks.