

Brief Notes on Cultivation of Mango

Cultivation Environment:	<p>Warm, humid and sunny weather is preferred but the plant cannot endure frost. Adequate light can promote flower bud differentiation. Grows well between 25°C and 27°C. Growth will be retarded below 15°C.</p> <p>There are many varieties of mango, but are normally transplanted during the spring or autumn seasons. Grows best in slightly acidic (pH value between 5.5 and 7.0) thick loam soil or sandy loam with rich organic matter, good drainage and ventilation.</p>
Planting and Spacing:	<p>Can grow through direct seeding or grafted seedlings. Mango trees grown from grafted seedlings take 2 to 4 years to start producing fruits. Plant spacing should be about 5 m x 7 m.</p>
Fertiliser Application and Management:	<p>Basal Dressing: Apply 1 000 kg of compost and 100 kg of organic fertiliser (N:P:K:MgO = 4:3:3:1) to each d.c..</p> <p>Top Dressing: Apply 75g of organic fertiliser (N:P:K = 9:3:7) per tree bimonthly after transplanting for the first year, then increase the amount to 150g and 195g in the second and third year respectively. Fertiliser is mainly applied to the holes. The application rate of organic fertiliser (N:P:K = 9:3:7) could change to twice a year when the mango tree matured. The first application time is after the fruits harvested and the second application time is during the mango trees flower; 1.6-2.5 kg of fertiliser is applied per tree depending on the fruit yield.</p> <p>Weeding: Remove weeds with tall and erect stems and vines in the fields and keep other grass species on the principle of not obstructing operation in the fields, but it is advisable to adopt the practice of clean culture by controlling the weeds under the tree canopy.</p> <p>Irrigation: Maintain an appropriate amount of water in the soil but note that no water should be given during flower bud differentiation (1 to 2 months before flowering) and appropriate irrigation should be maintained at the flowering-first fruit stage. Stop watering 1 month before harvesting of fruits to promote sugar accumulation in order to raise the sweetness.</p>
Others:	<p>When the fruits reach about 6 cm in length, thinning and bagging should be conducted to increase the average fruit weight and prevent fruit fly infestation. Before bagging, prune the overgrown twigs, lateral stems at the canopy and other undesirable branches. Remember not to conduct pruning before flowering to avoid causing any changes to the vegetative growth which will reduce the number of flowers.</p>
Harvesting:	<p>Harvest when the fruits are plump and the skin turns yellow to the extent between 50% and 65%.</p> <p>If the fruits are still hard when being harvested, ethylene can be used to speed up the ripening process in order to enhance its commodity value. If fruits are harvested prematurely, their quality will be compromised. However, if they are harvested too late, they will become soft and mushy.</p>