

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES - GENERAL GUIDELINES

Production of Local Fruit Trees

The guidelines are applicable to the production, harvesting, storage, etc. of local fruit trees (e.g. papaya, lychee, longan, banana, wampi, guava, etc.). Farmers can also refer to the “Good Agricultural Practices – Crop Production” Code of Practices and adopt appropriate measures to produce safe and premium fruits.



Seed and Seedlings

1. Look for varieties which are pest and disease resistant, heat resistant and GM-free.
2. Purchase from a reliable/reputable source which sells high quality, pest and disease free seeds/fruit seedlings.

Soil Management

1. Frequently apply compost or other organic materials (including crop residues) and plant cover crops.
2. If necessary, acid soil can be corrected by liming, whereas alkaline soil can be corrected by sulphur.
3. If necessary, saline soil can be rectified by leaching soil, scraping off surface soil and reducing use of agro-chemicals.



Use of Fertilizers

1. Apply the required level of fertilizers at the right time.
2. Use organic fertilizers and aged/well composted manure.
3. Keep fertilizers in a dry, clean and sheltered place.
4. Do not use empty/used fertilizer bags for containing harvested fruit.

For more information on “GAP-GENERAL GUIDELINES”, please contact:

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Irrigation

1. Irrigate fields early in the morning, late in the evening or at night.
2. Avoid uneven application of water.

Pest and Disease Management

1. Always use preventive methods. Examples are using disease-free seeds/fruit seedlings, planting hedges and crops with pest deterring value, and removing excrescent branch and overripe crops.
2. Adopt physical control measures. Examples include hand-picking, tillage, flaming, and setting up of fruit fly traps, etc.
3. If really necessary, use bio-pesticides/ synthetic pesticides.



Use of Pesticides

1. Only purchase and use registered pesticides.
2. Do not apply pesticides during strong winds and heavy rain.
3. Strictly adhere to the withholding period (i.e. the lag between pesticide application and harvesting) on the pesticide label.
4. Hold pesticides in original containers and keep them tightly closed in a cool, well-ventilated location.
5. Do not recycle or re-use pesticide containers for other usage.

Harvesting and Post-harvesting

1. Harvest at the right stage of maturity.
2. Harvest during the coolest part of the day - either early morning or late afternoon.
3. Do not harvest fruits which have skin breaks, bruises, spots, rots, decay, and other deterioration.
4. Treat the harvested fruit gently and avoid bumping, compression or pricking.
5. Wash hands with soap before and after handling produce. Do not smoke, drink or eat during harvesting.
6. Always keep containers, tools, equipment, packing and storage areas clean and tidy.

