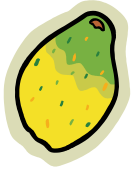


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Growing Mangoes



Mangoes are native to Asia, from Southern India to the Malay Peninsula. It is a medium sized to very large tree & forms a dense canopy under ideal conditions. The fruit is delicious & becoming widely grown throughout Australia. Mangoes can be eaten fresh ,juiced, or made into chutneys and many other dishes.

There are many, many varieties available for the home gardener. Most popular are the “Bowen” type Mangoes. “Bowen” Mangoes are also known as “Kensington” Mangoes. All of this type are grown from seed & are reliable for fruiting in our area. They are one of the few fruits that reproduce reasonably reliably from seed.

Most of the named varieties are grafted plants. This is because Mangoes can't easily be grown from cuttings . The cuttings simply wilt & die from various types of rots or just don't produce roots at all. Many of the imported varieties must be grafted onto seedling stock to be viable crop plants in Australia.

The mango grows readily on a wide range of soil types but the drainage must be good. It has a low tolerance of frost & must have dry weather during flowering & the early stages of fruit development. In coastal areas Spring rains will inhibit fruit production. Site the tree more than 10m from any buildings or other trees because of it's wide spreading habit and it's vigorous root system.

Spring to late Summer are the best times for planting Mangoes.

Follow the usual recommendations for soil preparation , especially those concerned with drainage. Dig in plenty of organic matter &, if in a clay based area, some gypsum or Gyp-Flo® to help break up the clay. Build up mounds of soil to plant into to ensure drainage as the trees will suffer root rot if the soil doesn't drain adequately. To avoid competition for water & nutrients , keep an area of at least 2 metres, free of grass & other plants. If the drainage is at all suspect make sure agricultural pipes are installed properly to remove the excess water.

Mangoes, like most fruit trees grown in Newcastle, have problems with fruit fly. This pest is the most damaging pest of the entire fruit producing industry. The fly lays its eggs in the ripening fruit and when they hatch, the maggots tunnel inside the fruit causing considerable damage. Use Rogor® at the recommended rates and timings to control this pest. Fruit fly traps and baits are also recommended if you live in a heavy infestation area.

Another problem faced by mango growers is the fungus called Anthracnose. This is evident on trees of all ages by the appearance of foliage with black spotting and dying leaf tips. Fruit that is infected will show black spots and often have a sticky gum like material exuding from it as well. Indeed it is very common for trees that are infected not to produce fruit at all owing to the fungal attack spreading to the flowers as they develop.

Anthracnose is difficult to control but weekly sprayings of Mancozeb® or a copper based fungicide at flowering and fruit set will be beneficial. Apply at the rates suggested on the chemical packaging for best results. Regular spraying is essential for effective control of Anthracnose. High losses of fruit and developing foliage are common in untreated mango trees. Some trees never set fruit due to continuous infections over many years.

Mango trees should be fertilized with a citrus or rose type fertiliser in September and March. 200 grams per year of the trees age up to 2kg for a ten year old tree is the recommended dosage.

Plenty of Summer watering is essential as fruit drop will occur if there is not sufficient water available to supply the developing fruit.

Remove all fruit from young trees up to 3 years of age as these will stress a small tree if allowed to develop. The fruit is large and therefore requires lots of nutrients from the tree.

The most commonly and rewarding variety grown in the Newcastle area is Bowen. This is sometimes also called Kensington Pride.