

Wallsend Nurseries

95 Lake Rd Wallsend 2287
Ph: 49 501066 Fax: 49 516960 Email: gardens1@tpg.com.au

Growing Paw Paws

Paw paws are a popular tropical or sub-tropical fruit tree suitable for the home garden.

They will bear very soon from planting (approx 12 months in good conditions).

The most popular varieties grown today are the Hybrid “Bi-sexual” variety. The reason for their popularity is the fact that only one tree is needed to produce quality fruit. Older “non bi-sexual” varieties required the planting of several plants to ensure that at least one was a female, the male trees not producing fruit at all.

The useful lifespan of the tree is around 3-4 years , rarely more, though sometimes up to 10 years.

Fruit should be ready to harvest around twelve months after planting of the tree. Generally it is best to harvest the fruit just before it ripens to avoid fungal problems. Obviously , however, flavour is considerably better in fruit allowed to remain on the tree until at least half coloured. Delicious when eaten fresh ripe it can also be used as a vegetable when the fruit is still in the green unripened state.

PawPaw plants are not very cold tolerant , mature plants can even die from repeated exposure to frost. It is best to grow paw paws in a position that is both sunny & well protected.

Soils should be well prepared before planting and it essential to provide good drainage as the tree can suffer from root rot if the soil is constantly waterlogged. Mound up the soil approximately 200-300 mm above the existing ground level. If the soil is clay based it's also a good idea to dig in some gypsum at the rate of 1kg per square metre. At this time dig in plenty of well composted organic material & a small quantity of a good Citrus or slow release type fertilizer at the rate of about 50-100 grams per square metre.

Pests affecting the paw paw include Broad Mites, Fruit Fly, Caterpillars and Aphids. Caterpillars are controlled using Baythroid® applied at the manufacturer's specified rates. Baythroid® will also control the Aphids or you could use Folimat® as a suitable substitute.

Braod Mite can be controlled using a Sulphur spray or Folimat®.

Fruit Fly is controlled by using a combination of Dak-Pot ® fly traps and regular spraying with Rogor® for best results.

Diseases include die-back which often attacks during Winter months, and Mildew which will attack the ripening fruit or sometimes the foliage in humid weather.

Mancozeb Plus® will control the mildew reasonably well but the die-back is much harder to control. Usually it's best to remove infected plants completely and, if replanting, do so in a different spot in the garden to avoid re-infection of the new plant.