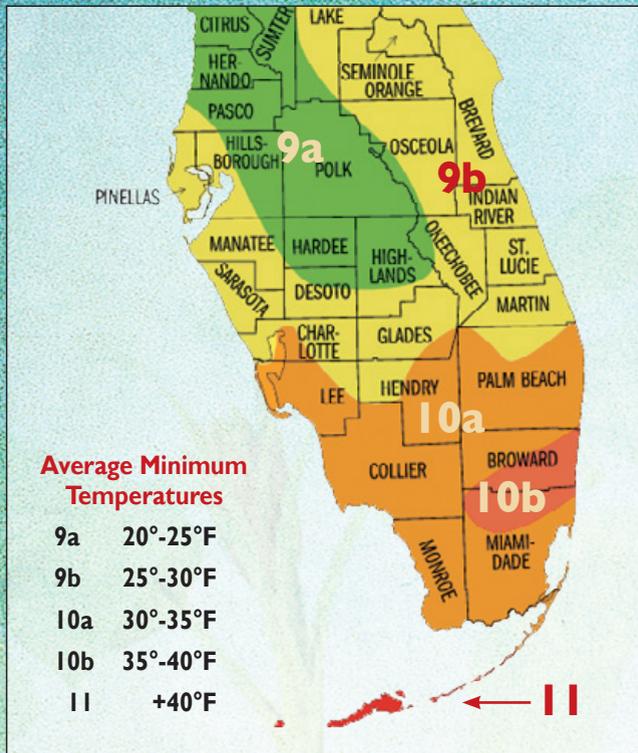


USDA Plant Hardiness Zones in South Florida



Tropical Fruits that Can Be Grown in a Container

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Avocado | Imbe |
| Banana | Jaboticaba |
| Barbados Cherry | Kei Apple |
| Capulin | Limeberry |
| Carissa | Miracle Fruit |
| Carambola | Monstera |
| Cocoplum | Naranjilla |
| Cattley Guava | Papaya |
| Ceylon Gooseberry | Passion Fruit |
| Coffee | Pineapple |
| Grumichama | Pitomba |
| Guava | Surinam Cherry |

Harvest Season and Hardiness Zone For Fruit

Asian Guava	Zone 9b	Year Round
Atemoya	Zone 9b	Aug-Oct
Avocado	Zone 9b	June-Feb
Banana	Zone 9a	Year Round
Caimito (Star Apple)	Zone 9a	Feb-June
Canistel (Egg Fruit)	Zone 9a	Year Round
Carambola (Star Fruit)	Zone 9b	July-March
Coconut	Zone 10a	Year Round
Dragon Fruit (Pitaya)	Zone 10a	June-Nov
Guanabana (Sour Sop)	Zone 9b	June-July
Jaboticaba	Zone 9b	Feb-May
Jackfruit	Zone 9b	June-Oct
Key lime	Zone 9a	Year Round
Kumquat	Zone 9a	Oct-Jan
Longan	Zone 10a	July-Aug
Lychee	Zone 9b	May-June
Mango	Zone 10a	May-Oct
Miracle Fruit	Zone 10a	Year Round
Monstera	Zone 10a	May-Nov
Papaya	Zone 10a	Year Round
Passion Fruit	Zone 9a	June-Dec
Purple Mombin	Zone 9b	June
Sapodilla	Zone 9b	Feb-June
Sapote (Black)	Zone 9b	Dec-March
Sapote (White)	Zone 9a	May-July
Sugar Apple	Zone 9b	June-Oct
Tamarind	Zone 9a	April-June
Wax Jambu	Zone 9b	May-July

Zones shown above indicate the plant is hardy in that zone and higher.



Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden
559 North Military Trail • West Palm Beach, FL 33415
(561) 233-1757 • www.mounts.org

More Information About Growing Tropical Fruit:
www.ifas.ufl.edu

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS): www.trec.ifas.ufl.edu
The Tropical Research and Education Center of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences research, teaching, and extension programs focus on tropical and subtropical fruit crops.

Rare Fruit Council-Palm Beach Chapter

An organization dedicated to promoting and furthering the cultivation and use of tropical and rare fruit, both in South Florida and throughout the world. Meetings are held at the Mounts Auditorium: 531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach on the Second Friday of each month at 7:30 PM.

Front cover images, clockwise from top left:
Jackfruit, Lychee, Banana, Mango

This brochure was made possible through the generosity of **The Fritz and Marge Bell Tropical Fruit Project**

Tropical Fruit in your Garden



It's easy to have fresh, ripe tropical fruit outside your door...

It's Easy to Plant your own Fruit Tree and Enjoy Fresh Florida Fruit

Planting

Many areas in Florida are within 7 ft of the water table and experience occasional flooding after heavy rains. To improve plant survival, consider planting fruit trees on a 3 or 4 foot high mound of native soil.

Propagation

Asexual propagation: includes division, air-layering, grafting and cuttings. The plants created are genetically identical to the parent plant.

Sexual propagation: plant forms seeds, resulting in plants which are not genetically identical to the parent plant.

Fertilizer

When you read a fertilizer label, the numbers such as 8-3-9 are the percentages of N-P-K in that bag. Nitrogen helps the plants vigor and growth, Phosphorus is for general health and Potassium helps bloom and fruit development. An 8-3-9 mix is formulated for most tropical fruit trees growing in South Florida.

Potting Soil

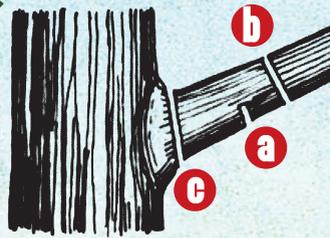
Determine the needs of the plant you are potting. Either buy a bag of commercial potting mix or make your own: combine 40% Canadian peat, 30% sand, 20% cypress sawdust, and 10% perlite.

Watering Fruit Trees

Planting during the rainy season, from late May to early October, is by far the best way to easily establish new plantings. Many tropical fruits require a dry season to flower and fruit prolifically and are actually harmed by irrigation systems that run on an automatic schedule.



How To Do Pruning Cuts



Mulch

Mulch is highly beneficial. It can beautify your planting, suppress weeds, add nutrients to soil, alter pH (soil acidity), protect new plantings, and help retain water.

Excerpt from *Gardens by the Sea*

As Robert Rosenstein, an editor of the *Tropical Fruit News*, published by the Rare Fruit Council International in Miami, Florida, said: "There is hardly a tropical fruit grown in South Florida that some 'authority' has said could not be grown here. There are fruits that are growing here now that were tried and failed several times. There are also fruit trees that the 'authorities' said should grow here, but don't, or if they do, they don't fruit. The point is we don't know until we try, and try again, that the growing of plants is still very much an art despite all the science."

Edible fruit is usually a fleshy, sweet or pleasantly tart substance that encloses the seed or seeds of plants, most often trees, vines, and herbaceous perennials and are useful to humans, as well as animals. Regional tastes often dictate the popularity of fruits all over the world and early spice explorers brought home many unusual food plants, some of which have had a profound influence on world populations. The banana plant is a herbaceous perennial and the pineapple is in the bromeliad family, other members of which are mostly decorative. Citrus has been known since ancient times in Southeastern Asia and the islands of the South Sea. The mango also comes from southern Asia. But these fruits are commonly known. There are myriads of other fruits of tropical and subtropical origin to become acquainted with and enjoy that, perhaps, are best grown by the home gardener.

Plant choices will be determined by the space you have and the preferences of your family and friends. We add "friends" here as most fruit trees bear more fruit than one family can use and it is nice to be able to swap some of your avocados for their mangoes.

Cultivation

Trees over two years of age should be fertilized **three times a year**. The major ingredients are: nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, supplemented by other essential minor elements such as: iron, manganese and magnesium. Many people use the following program:

The fall feeding (September-October) is low in nitrogen, giving summer growth time to harden before cooler weather: 4-8-8 is a good choice. Midwinter a mixture of 2-10-10 will encourage blooms, and 12-5-9 is the all around food to be applied in late spring (April). The feeding option recommended by the Rare Fruit Council, Palm Beach Chapter for all tropical fruits is three applications a year of 8-5-9 that includes minor elements. Another way to supply the necessary micro-nutrients is to use a nutritional spray. For those interested in organic gardening, a compost pile or container is a must.

When rare freezing temperatures threaten, we advise you to secure **bubble wrap around the lower trunks** of your most cold sensitive trees all the way to ground level. It could make the difference in whether they survive or not.

Unfortunately, all fruit trees are subject to disease and pests. Fruit flies are a major threat and agriculture agents are on a constant look-out for the Mediterranean fruit fly as well as the Caribbean fruit fly, which is more common in Florida. In an environmentally aware world, it is best to only spot-spray as needed to control scales, mites, rust, aphids, mealy bugs, white fly and lace bugs; insecticides should be used only when absolutely necessary. Ladybugs and praying mantis are helpful insects and should be encouraged.

Above excerpt by Marge Bell from *Gardens by the Sea: Creating a Tropical Paradise* used with permission by Garden Club of Palm Beach