

Plant name:	Golden Paw Paw
Latin name:	Carica Papaya
Family:	Caricaceae



Country and area of Origin:	<i>Native to Southern Mexico and Northern South America. Native to the tropical forests of MesoAmerica</i>
Average Rainfall at Origin:	<i>800mm average rainfall</i>
Expected life of plant (from sprout until death):	<i>5-10 years</i>
Time until tree starts to fruit:	<i>60-120 days to fruit. Some can take up to 12 months</i>
Seasons of year fruit is produced:	<i>Spring, Summer, Autumn. Fruit ceases during winter.</i>
Years plant produces fruit:	<i>Average of 6 years</i>
Height, width and shape of plant when it reaches maturity:	<i>3-5 meters high, up to 3 meters in width. Single trunk with an umbrella canopy. Trunk diameter average 50 centimetres.</i>
Interesting Characteristics:	<i>Plant can become bi-sexual (both male and female). Male trees will not bare fruit, however male trees can change sex. Female trees need a male tree nearby. The Paw Paw fruit grows on the trunk of the plant. Their native habitat sits below 800 meters in altitude. Fruit can weigh from 200 grams to 5 kilos.</i>
Climates:	<i>Tropical to sub tropical climate. 22-35 degrees.</i>
What these plants love:	<i>When they are sprouting, protect them from the sun, however as they mature, they love to be in sunlight! The massive leaves protect the fruit from the sun, hence why the fruit sits on the trunk under the leaves. They like to be together, however not too close. These plants like to have airflow between each other in order to avoid mildew build up, and to allow pollinating insects in. They do like lots of soil moisture due to the large leaves. Strong winds can affect these plants so it is good to have a wind block.</i>
Companion Plants:	<i>Ginger, banana and palms.</i>
Health benefits for humans:	<i>Anti-cancer properties. Improves digestion. Fights inflammation. Contains antioxidants (carotenoids). High levels of Vitamin A and C. Good for the heart (creates a better LDL:HDL ratio in the body). Paw Paw has been made into creams and ointments to help aid problems with skin.</i>
Pests and Diseases:	<i>Fruit fly, Ringspot Virus, Mildew, bacterial leaf spot, fruit and stem rot, etc.</i>