


ERICKSON NURSERY CARE GUIDE

MANGO

<p>LIGHT</p>  Full sun	<p>SOIL</p> <p>Mangos thrive in nutrient poor soils and even rock. Addition of organic amendments is not required or recommended. Good drainage is essential.</p>
<p>WATER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Month 1: Soak thoroughly twice a week • Months 2 – 3: Water once a week • Months 4 – 12: Water weekly only during dry spells • One year and after: No need to water unless exposed to intense, prolonged drought. Do not irrigate with sprinkler system. Water does more harm than good to an established mango tree. 	
<p>NUTRITION</p> <p>Mangos do not require heavy fertilizers. Consistent levels of potassium and micronutrients play a significant role in root development, fruit quality, and disease resistance. Apply the following three times a year. We recommend once right after fruit harvest (September), before bloom (January), and again around the time of fruit set (April or May).</p> <p>Sprinkle a high potassium fertilizer (0-0-50 or as close as you can find) around the drip line or edge of the canopy of the tree. Begin with about ¼ lb. and gradually increase to 1 lb. as tree grows.</p> <p>Finish with a foliar application of a quality chelated micronutrient supplement that includes magnesium, zinc, and manganese, boron, and molybendum.</p>	
<p>PRUNING</p> <p>Pruning increases yield, improves air circulation, prevents pest and disease problems, and controls tree size.</p> <p>For the first four years small trees benefit from continuous tipping every time it comes out with a new flush to encourage branching. As a general rule do not allow new branches to reach a length of more than 12” to 18”. More tips = more bloom = more fruit.</p> <p>For trees five years and older pruning is done to improve air circulation and control tree size. For varieties with high vigor remove one major limb annually. For less vigorous trees pruning can be less drastic or less frequent.</p>	
<p>COMMON DISEASES</p> <p>Fungus is the major threat to mangos in the Florida landscape, specifically anthracnose and powdery mildew. Both attack during the bloom stage. Often copper sprayed on the tree and bloom will control anthracnose. A fungicide can be applied in severe instances. Elemental sulfur is recommended for powdery mildew.</p>	
<p>COLD PROTECTION</p> <p>Young trees will be damaged or killed by a hard frost (temperatures at 32° F or lower). Older trees can handle temperatures as low as 27° F for a few hours. Extended and/or extreme cold will damage even large trees.</p> <p>Small trees can be totally covered. If using plastic do not allow it to touch the tree. Adding a heat source under the canopy can help as well. The most important thing is to protect first 12” of the trunk next to the ground. It can be several degrees colder at the ground level and if the tree is killed back below the graft you will lose your chosen variety.</p>	