SOIL TYPE

Papaya may be planted on the coastal clays, coastal peat soils, reef sands, white sands and the interior sands of the intermediate or Rupununi savannahs. These soils have issues of Calcium shortage, Aluminum and iron toxicity, and especially in the case of the clay soils, drainage and compaction issues.

DRAINAGE

Papaya is especially sensitive to waterlogging. On the clay and pegasse soils drainage is essential. It would be best to plant on cambered beds and drain should be at least 18 inches deep.

On the sands the land is usually sloping and drains along the contour can act as swales to capture rain and irrigation water.

LIMESTONE/OGANIC MATTER

Limestone is absolutely necessary to

- Provide calcium
- Reduce acidity
- Promote good soil structure
- Reduce aluminum and iron toxicity due to low pH

Limestone must be ploughed in before planting. On clay soils no more can be ploughed in for the life of the crop. A drench of **AGRICAL** and a regular application of organic matter would help to alleviate the problems of aluminum and iron toxicity and improve soil structure.

For sandy soils limestone applied to the surface can leach down to some extent and can be applied to the surface twice a year. Organic matter would be important for the same reasons as in a clay soil, but in addition would be necessary to hold water and prevent nutrients from leaching.



WEED CONTROL

The approach to weed control is somewhat different for Papaya. While weeds must be kept under control they protect the soil from erosion. Root exudates from the weeds:

- Improve soil structure
- Release nutrients from the soil
- Increase beneficial soil microbes

If labor is problematic weeds are best controlled with **LIFELINE** or **CARISTA**. These herbicides would not kill the root and cause minimal damage to the trees due to drift. For Papaya it is especially dangerous to control weed with **Paraquat**. Even the smallest amount of drift falling on the stem would produce a sore which would increase in size and case the tree to fall. Glyphosate drift on the leaves could cause damage to the root.

Slashing has the advantage of maintaining a mulch covering the soil and feeding beneficial soil fauna. However, careless slashing could damage the soft stems. Perhaps a good program would include slashing weeds far from the plants and controlling weeds close to the plants with **LIFELINE** or **CARISTA**, since slashing near the trees may accidently damage the bark.

SPACING

Spacing should be 8 feet within the row, and about 10 feet between the rows.

FERTILIZER

The best soil applied fertilizer would be **ELIXIR 7-21-21**. This is a compound fertilizer, which means each grain has all the nutrients. Although it is best to bury the fertilizer **ELIXIR** is still effective when applied to the surface as it dissolves in rain or irrigation water. **FERSAN 15-15-15** or **12-12-17** can be used, but it is blended fertilizer and must be buried.

About 400 lbs. per acre should be applied at planting and at the beginning of each rainy season.

The crop would be in the ground for some years, so after the first application limestone cannot be added. To provide Calcium a drench **AGRICAL** at 60 ml per gallon and a half gallon of the mixture per tree every 6 months.

FOLIAR FERTILIZER

Foliar fertilizers are valuable especially at dry times without irrigation, at flowering. Foliar fertilizers containing Phosphonate, like **Quad 14, Phortify** and **Saeta** are especially useful to protect the roots from Phytopthora root rot and gummosis on the stem caused by Phytopthora..

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PRODUCTION GUIDE:
PAPAYA



QUALITY PRODUCTS. EXPERT ADVICE.

PEST PROBLEMS

SCALES

These insects can attack the fruit and young stems. They can be controlled by **CAPRID, PROTECTOR, SECURE,** or **CURE.** To control the egg sand young stages use **ADVANCE 10.**

MEALEYBUGS

These insects can attack mostly young stems and fruits. They are especially dangerous as they are vectors for diseases like ring spot virus and bunchy top. They can be controlled by **CAPRID, PROTECTOR, SECURE,** or **CURE.** To control the egg sand young stages use **ADVANCE 10.**

APHIDS

They suck leaves and produce honey dew, which is used by ants for food. They cause a black mold on the leaves because fungi also feed on the honeydew. They are especially dangerous as they are vectors for diseases like ring spot virus and bunchy top. They can be controlled by **CAPRID, PROTECTOR, SECURE,** or **CURE.** To control the egg sand young stages use **ADVANCE 10.**

MITES

They can cause damage to leaves and fruit. They can be controlled by **SECURE,** or **CURE.** To control the egg sand young stages use **AZTEZ.**

Consistent monitoring and correct application of these products will help maintain healthy papaya crops and high yields.

DISEASE PROBLEMS

GUMMOSIS / PHYTOPTHORA

Best controlled by **PHORTIFY, QUAD 14, PILOT** or **ACROBAT.**

ANTHRACNOSE:

This disease causes sunken, dark, water-soaked spots on ripening fruit. As it progresses, these spots may produce pinkish spores. It is best controlled by **CARBENDAZIM, CUPROFIX, GLORY** or **PILOT.** Harvest fruits as soon as a yellow stripe appears and soak in a solution of one of the fungicides above.



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PATHOGEN CONTROL PROGRAM

Twice per year drench each tree with **PROTECTOR** at 15gm/gal.

Use a gallon of mix per tree.

On sands add **VYD-8** at 10 ml/gal to the mix.

AS ROUTINE THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE CROP:

ALTERNATE THE FOLLOWING
2 SPRAY MIXTURES EVERY 2 WEEKS

MIXTURE 1		MIXTURE 2	
SECURE	5ml/gal	PROTECTOR	5gm/gal
PHORTIFY	10ml/gal	ADVANCE 10	10ml/gal
CALMAX	10ml/gal	K41	10ml/gal
PILOT	10gm/gal	BIO 20	10ml/gal
NUFILM	2ml/gal	CUPROFIX	10ml/gal
		NUFILM	2ml/gal



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