

Papaya Tree

Carica papaya



When to Plant: Year-round in a frost-free climate

When to Harvest: Summer or Fall

Uses in Medicine: Historically the leaves of papaya have been used as an antimalarial, a purgative, an abortifacient, or smoked to help with asthma; unripened papayas may cause allergic reactions or irritation in some.

Uses in Cooking: Fruit can be eaten raw or cooked when ripe; frequently used in Thai and Asian dishes.

Fun Facts: The papaya was the first transgenic fruit tree to have its genome sequences.

