

Kwai Muk Tree - *Artocarpus hypargyraeus*

- in the Moraceae (mulberry family)
- Native to China
- Ugly fruit with amazing flavors of Strawberry, Pineapple, Apricot
- Relative to the Jackfruit

Description

Self-pollinating slow growing, slender, erect small tree 20-25 ft. Attractive shaped canopy without pruning, good for landscaping small urban parcels.

Yellow flowers May to July

Mature trees can bear up to 2000 small fruit.

Fruit has yellow skin and orangish-red, pleasantly sweet juicy pulp, very soft and tender.

Mature fruit is eaten fresh from the tree or used in desserts. Fruits can also be dried with good flavor and texture. Fruiting season is August to October. Unripe fruit should be avoided due to presence of a white, sticky sap in the skin when broken.

Culture

Prefers rich moist (well drained) soil and is well adapted to most Florida soils. Grows well in mildly acidic sandy soils. Trees grow relatively well in the limestone soils also, but sometimes have leaf chlorosis from deficiencies of iron, zinc, and manganese. Unknown salt tolerance.

Water: Trees need regular watering even as mature trees will lose their leaves if underwatered.

Subtropical: Well-adapted to South Florida Zone 10a-11. Full sun to part shade. Mature trees able to tolerate temperatures to 26 degrees F for brief periods of time.

Propagation has been done in Florida entirely by seed. Seeds take several weeks to germinate, and the young plants grow slowly.

Trees grow well when maintained on a fertilizer program such as that used for citrus trees in home gardens.

Cold tolerance: Young trees have leaf and branch injury at air temperatures of 28-30°F and are likely to be killed at lower temperatures. Large trees survive brief exposure to air temperatures of 25-26 °F with injury only to leaves and small twigs but are damaged severely or killed by temperatures in the low 20s.

No pests or diseases are known to cause significant damage at this time.

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Proc.FlaState Hort.Soc.97:318-319 1984.