

# *Mangifera indica*: Mango<sup>1</sup>

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Figure 1. Middle-aged *Mangifera indica*: Mango.  
Credits: R. A. Howard @ US National Herbarium, Department of Botany, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution

## Introduction

An abundant harvest of juicy, red-gold fruit and attractive dark green, tropical foliage make Mango a popular home landscape item in very large yards for warm climates. The trees grows to be 30 to 45 feet tall and almost 50 feet wide, so allow plenty of room for growth. New foliage is a brilliant purple-red, and flower and fruit clusters extend well beyond the long, glossy leaves. The tree is covered with very showy, white flower spikes in March and early April. Mango trees grow quickly into round, multibranched, dense, spreading shade trees but placement is limited due to the falling fruit. Some people are allergic to the pollen, the sap and even the fruit.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Mangifera indica*

**Pronunciation:** man-JIFF-er-uh IN-dih-kuh

**Common name(s):** Mango

**Family:** *Anacardiaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Figure 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** According to the IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas (IFAS Invasive Plant Working Group 2008), *Mangifera indica* should be treated with caution in the central and south zone in Florida, may be recommended but managed to prevent escape. It is not considered a problem species and may be recommended in the north zone in Florida (counties listed by zone at: [http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/pdfs/assess\\_counties.pdf](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/pdfs/assess_counties.pdf))

**Uses:** hedge; screen; shade; fruit

**Availability:** not native to North America

## Description

**Height:** 30 to 45 feet

**Spread:** 30 to 40 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** round

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** coarse

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Figure 2. Range

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Figure 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire, undulate

**Leaf shape:** lanceolate, oblong

**Leaf venation:** pinnate, brachidodrome

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen, broadleaf evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 8 to 12 inches, 12 to 18 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy



Figure 3. Foliage

## Flower

**Flower color:** white/cream/gray

**Flower characteristics:** showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** 3 to 6 inches

**Fruit covering:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** green, red, yellow

**Fruit characteristics:** attracts squirrels/mammals; showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem



Figure 4. Fruit.

Credits: P. Acevedo @ US National Herbarium, Department of Botany, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure

**Breakage:** susceptible to breakage

**Current year twig color:** gray, brown

**Current year twig thickness:** medium, thick

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

## Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

## Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** no

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** unknown

**Pest resistance:** sensitive to pests/diseases

## Use and Management

Mango trees grow best in full sun on fertile, well-drained soils and should have ample moisture. Leaf, flower, twig and fruit litter is a constant nuisance for some, and branches are subject to breakage during severe windstorms. It seems like something is always falling from a Mango tree to litter the lawn. Place it in a bed with other plants to hide the litter.

There are several cultivars available which have been selected for fruit quality: 'Keitt', 'Hent', 'Edward', 'Glenn', 'Haden' and others are best for Florida; 'Alolia', 'Edgehill', 'Haden', 'Manila' and others are recommended for California.

Propagation is by budding or veneer grafting on seedling rootstocks.

## Pests

Scales followed by sooty mold and Mediterranean fruit fly are pests of this tree.

## Diseases

Anthrachnose on fruit and leaves is a serious problem for Mango.

## Literature Cited

Fox, A.M., D.R. Gordon, J.A. Dusky, L. Tyson, and R.K. Stocker. 2008. IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas: Status Assessment. Cited from the Internet (November 16, 2012), [http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/pdfs/status\\_assessment.pdf](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/pdfs/status_assessment.pdf)