Mangifera indica: Mango

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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 grow 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)
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

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

**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

**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

**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

Figure 2. Range

Figure 3. Foliage

Figure 4. Fruit.
Credits: P. Acevedo @ US National Herbarium, Department of Botany, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution
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
Anthracnose on fruit and leaves is a serious problem for Mango.

Literature Cited