

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

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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 grows to be 30 to 60 feet tall and almost 50 feet wide, so allow plenty of room for growth. New foliage is a brilliant reddish purple, and flower and fruit clusters extend well beyond the long, shiny leaves. The tree is covered with very showy, white, yellow, pinkish, or reddish 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:** native to southern Asia

**UF/IFAS Invasive Assessment Status:** aution, may be recommended but manage to prevent escape (Central, South); not considered a problem species at this time, may be recommended (North)

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



Figure 1. Full Form - *Mangifera indica*: mango  
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## Description

**Height:** 30 to 60 feet

**Spread:** 30 to 50 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

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire, undulate

**Leaf shape:** lanceolate to elongated-elliptic

**Leaf venation:** pinnate, brachidodrome

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

**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 12 inches

**Leaf color:** dark green and shiny on top, paler green underneath

**Fall color:** no color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy



Figure 3. Leaf - *Mangifera indica*: mango  
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## Flower

**Flower color:** white, yellowish, pinkish, or reddish

**Flower characteristics:** showy; emerges in clusters on 2 ½ - 15 ½" long, reddish, branched panicles

**Flowering:** late winter to early spring



Figure 4. Flower - *Mangifera indica*: mango  
Credits: UF/IFAS

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval or kidney-shaped

**Fruit length:** 3 to 10 inches

**Fruit covering:** fleshy drupe

**Fruit color:** turns from green to a mix of green, yellow, orange, or red when ripe

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

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/branches:** branches droop; not showy; typically one trunk; no thorns

**Bark:** gray to brown, thick, smooth, and becomes scaly and flaky with age

**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





Figure 4. Flower - *Mangifera indica*: mango  
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Figure 6. Bark - *Mangifera indica*: mango  
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## 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.

## Reference

Koeser, A.K., Friedman, M.H., Hasing, G., Finley, H., Schelb, J. 2017. Trees: South Florida and the Keys. University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.