



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Dwarf Papaya *Carica papaya*

DESCRIPTION: Dwarf papayas are fruit-bearing trees that grow to heights of less than 10 feet. In fact, many varieties stop at between 3 and 5 feet. If you love the taste of papaya but you don't live in the tropics, a dwarf papaya is an ideal choice for you. With the correct care, you can grow a thriving indoor plant that produces papayas each season. With the right cultural conditions Dwarf Papaya will grow quickly and produce ripe fruit in as little as one year's time. The fruit turns bright yellow/gold when ripe and has a delicious sweet flavor. Fruit will start developing only 12" from the base of the plant. Remember to keep the plant warm; if it gets too cold, it can get root disease.

RECOMMENDED USE: Dwarf papaya is perfect for growing in pots

(accent, specimen, shade, form, color, screen, barrier, ground cover, border, enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape, patio container, hanging pot, attract wildlife, etc.)

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Cannot take frost. Grow it inside in the winter and take it outside in the summer months.



Sun tolerance: Morning sun or all-day light shade is best for straight growth and good fruit production.



Watering and feeding: In warmer weather, you may need to water daily, but do not allow the soil to stay soggy, as overly wet soil can kill the papaya tree. Do not overfeed but fertilize moderately on a regular basis.



Soil requirements: Keep in a rich organic, but not soggy soil



Pruning: Lightly, as needed