



TREE SPECIES (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

# *Carica papaya*

ENGLISH COMMON NAME

Papaya

PERU COMMON NAME

Papaya

TREE FAMILY

**CARICACEA**

AVERAGE LEAF SIZE (CM)

**67.5cm** \* **45cm**  
Length Width

ELEVATIONAL RANGE (M)

**0-1600M**

TREE HEIGHT

**SHRUB (1-10M)**



DISTRIBUTION

 **EXOTIC IN PERU**

NATIVE TO

**Region:** Americas

**Latin America:** Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Venezuela

EXOTIC IN

**Latin America:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname

## COFFEE AGROFORESTRY INFORMATION

COFFEE SYSTEM

 **ARABICA**

COFFEE IMPACT

 **BENEFICIAL TO COFFEE**

CULTIVATION

 **PLANTED**

 **NATURAL**

TREE MANAGEMENT

The seeds are dispersed by bats. It propagates by seed and germinates in 2-3 weeks. Grafting can also be used. Seedlings grow quickly. Weed control is necessary. It requires pH control and a constant supply of water, but is relatively resistant to drought. Very sensitive to fertilizers. Fruit production begins within a year of planting and produces 30-150 fruits/year. You can tap the latex at least once a week. You can rejuvenate mature trees by cutting up to 30 cm above the ground. The tree can live more than 25 years. Yields can be maximized by renewing every 3 years.

PREVALENCE

Unknown

## TREE BENEFITS AND USES

FARMER USES



**Food, Medicinal, Product**

The fruits are eaten, a sweet "meat" is made from the flowers, and young leaves are also sometimes eaten. The seeds are used as a spice, especially in salad dressings. The male flowers are cooked and used as a green vegetable. It can be used when coffee sales are insufficient or urgent cash needs arise, as it can be sold at market and can be produced throughout the year. The dried leaves can be beaten in water to form a soap substitute. The seed and green fruit are eaten to treat parasites in children. The leaves and fruit, especially the unripe fruit, are taken internally in the treatment of a variety of digestive disorders, diarrhea, high blood pressure, and painful uterus.

FARM SERVICES



**Soil Improvement**

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

 **YES**

The seeds are dispersed by bats.

Last Updated: August 14, 2023

Image: Carica papaya fruits photo: Peter Gasson, © RBG Kew <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> Carica papaya tree photo: Paul Little, © RBG Kew <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> Carica papaya flowers photo: Andrew McRobb, © RBG Kew <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> Carica papaya leaves photo: Herbarium Catalogue Specimens Digital Image © Board of Trustees, RBG Kew <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>

Jezeer, Rosalien. (2018). PhD dissertation: Shedding Light on Shade- Reconciling Livelihoods and Biodiversity in Coffee Agroforests. 10.13140/RG.2.2.28895.71844.; Shade Catalog | Indonesia. Shade Catalog, Conservation International, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and World Coffee Research. Retrieved October 5, 2022, from <https://www.shadecoffee.org/en/catalog/indonesia>;

Tropical Plants Database, Ken Fern. [tropical.theferns.info](http://tropical.theferns.info). 2022-10-05. [tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Carica+papaya](http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Carica+papaya)