

Starfruit

Starfruit, also known as *Averrhoa carambola*, is a tropical fruit tree that belongs to the Oxalidaceae family. It is native to Southeast Asia and is grown commercially in countries such as India, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The fruit of the Starfruit tree is small, oblong or elliptical in shape and has five to six prominent ridges that make it resemble a star when sliced.

Characteristics	Description
Name	Starfruit
Scientific name	<i>Averrhoa carambola</i>
Height	20 to 30 feet
Canopy spread	20 to 30 feet
Years for fruiting	2 to 3 years
Fruits per tree	100 to 150 pounds per year (on average)

Different Varieties of Starfruit that can be planted

There are several varieties of Starfruit that can be planted in Indian gardens. The most commonly grown varieties are the Malay and Sri Kembangan, which are known for their sweet and juicy taste. Other varieties include the Arkin, Fwang Tung, Golden Star, and Demak.

Soil and Water conditions for the best growth

Starfruit trees require well-drained soil with a pH range of 5.5 to 6.5. They grow best in soils that are rich in organic matter and have good water-holding capacity. The trees also

require regular watering, especially during the flowering and fruiting stages. However, care must be taken to avoid waterlogging, as this can lead to root rot.

How to take care of the plant

Starfruit trees require regular care to ensure healthy growth and fruiting. Here are some tips to take care of your Starfruit plant:

Pruning: Regular pruning helps to promote new growth and prevents the tree from becoming too dense. Prune the tree during the winter months, removing dead or diseased branches.

Fertilization: Apply a balanced fertilizer during the growing season to promote healthy growth and fruiting.

Pest and Disease Control: Starfruit trees are susceptible to pests and diseases such as fruit flies, spider mites, and anthracnose. Regular monitoring and control measures such as spraying with organic pesticides can help to prevent infestations.

Mulching: Applying a layer of mulch around the tree can help to retain soil moisture and prevent weed growth.

Which part of the garden should it be planted?

Starfruit trees prefer full sun to partial shade and require at least six hours of sunlight per day. The best location to plant the tree is in a well-drained area with good air circulation. It is also advisable to plant the tree away from other trees and structures, as it can grow up to 30 feet in height and spread.

Fruiting Year and Yield

Starfruit trees usually start fruiting within two to three years of planting. The trees can produce fruit twice a year, with the main harvest season being from July to September and the second season from November to February. The yield of Starfruit trees can vary depending on the variety, growing conditions, and age of the tree. However, on average, a mature tree can produce up to 100-150 pounds of fruit per year.

Conclusion

Growing Starfruit in Indian gardens can be a rewarding experience, provided you take the necessary steps to ensure healthy growth and fruiting. By selecting the right variety, providing adequate soil and water conditions, and taking care of the tree, you can enjoy a bountiful harvest of sweet and juicy Starfruit. So, go ahead and plant a Starfruit tree in your garden today!