

## Papaya Chronology

**NURSERY:** Week 1 Week – Week 6; **RAPID GROWTH AFTER TRANSPLANTING:** Week 7 – Week 16; **FLOWERING AND FRUIT SETTING:** Week 17 – Week 21; **FRUIT MATURITY:** Week 22 – Week 26; **FIRST HARVEST:** Week 37 and on with good agronomic practices one is bound to harvest more than 40 Papaya fruits per plant per year.

## Papaya Fruit Disorder

The deficiency of nutrition can cause immature Papaya fruit skin turn yellow, but actually the fruit is still hard and immature.

Usually this is caused by the following reasons; Root disease like Phytophthora, Low temperature, Drought and Not enough fertilizer

Some typical symptoms of Papaya nutrition deficiency; **CALCIUM DEFICIENCY:** The internal seeds necrosis and fruit browning is the typical symptom of Calcium deficiency; **PHOSPHOROUS DEFICIENCY:** It can also cause the flower carpel is not completely sealed, disorder pollination then deform fruit; **BORON DEFICIENCY (POSSIBLE):** Un-smooth fruit skin and deform fruit

## Short-Term Solution

Perform the following to save coming fruits

- Remove deformed fruit to save nutrient
- Apply liquid composite fertilizer on leaves (by spraying) and root (by irrigation)
- Since it is already in fruit setting stage, use high Potassium fertilizer with NPK ratio; **Agrigrow (Crystalline) Flowering and Fruiting Extra® – High K (15:5:35; NPK)**

- Please make sure liquid fertilizer contains micro elements such as Boron, Calcium, Magnesium, Zinc and Manganese
- To support the coming fruit setting, please apply slow – releasing (particle) fertilizers in the soil
- Make sure the irrigation water will cover the fertilizer (otherwise it will not release the nutrition) after fertilization and this fertilizer should also contain micro (trace) elements mentioned above
- When Papaya plants take enough nutrition, the new fruit will recover and become normal

## Long-Term Solution

The following should be considered and implemented;

- Papaya being a long term plant; In flowering stage, use high Phosphorous ratio fertilizer - **Agrigrow (Crystalline) Seedling Starter Extra® – High P (14:28:18; NPK)** and add micro (trace) elements including Boron, Calcium, Magnesium, Zinc and Manganese
- When the fruit start setting, use high Potassium and Phosphorous ratio fertilizer; **Agrigrow (Crystalline) Flowering and Fruiting Extra® – High K (15:5:35; NPK)** and **Agrigrow (Crystalline) Seedling Starter Extra® – High P (14:28:18; NPK)**
- Make sure applying enough base fertilizer before planting Papaya
- Frequently add additional fertilizer (dressing fertilizer) after planting
- Dressing fertilizer should be applied at least once a month
- Watering is crucial after using solid (slow releasing) fertilizer. Fertilizer need water to release nutrients
- Remove the abnormal flowers and fruit. Save the nutrients only to normal fruit. Fertilizer deficiency can cause irreversible result, fertilizing after problems occur can't make the nutrient deficient fruit return to normal fruit

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[seeds@agrifchemafrika.com](mailto:seeds@agrifchemafrika.com)



Papaya  
**RedSwitF1®**



## Papaya RedSwit F1®

### How to Germinate Papaya Seeds

Papaya is a perennial plant that grows in tropical and subtropical climates that have no chance of frost for freezing temperatures.

Papaya, REDSWIT F1® variety, is tolerant to most diseases affecting Papaya.

REDSWIT F1® fruits are ready for harvesting at the age of 8Months to 12Months from transplanting date and can be harvested continuously for more than 2 Years.

### Sowing Seed



- i. Soak seeds in clean water for absolute (3) Days i.e. 72 Hours. Time allowing water to be changed everyday
- ii. Seed are then sown in a nursery or polythene bags whose planting media is soil, manure mixture at the ratio of 3:1
- iii. Seeds should be placed not more than 2.5cm deep
- iv. Preferably a shade should be provided to minimize moisture loss through evaporation
- v. Papaya seeds are prone to infection by one or more species of fungi-like. It is common in the nursery or in the field where seedlings are too crowded. Papaya is favoured by high temperature and wet weather hence **Agrilax 72WP® (Mancozeb 64% + Metalaxyl 8%)** be applied on the planting media
- vi. Seedlings will be ready for transplanting into the field when they have 2Leaves – 3Leaves

### Land Preparation

Clear the area of all shrubs and trees preferably during dry season and alternatively plough and harrow to obtain fine tilth

### Planting Holes

- 60cm × 60cm planting holes should be dug at a spacing of either 2.5m × 2m or 3m × 3m. Wide spacing gives room for intercropping or minimizing inter competition, and close spacing
- Top soil, about 30cm deep dug from the planting hole should be set aside from the other 30cm bottom soil. A bucket full of well decomposed manure or composite should be mixed thoroughly with top soil. Then the mixture of top soil and manure is back filled in the planting hole and topped up with the bottom soil.
- Water the planting holes for about 2 Weeks prior to transplanting

### Field Maintenance

- Apply 15Kg – 20Kg of farm yard manure to every hill annually to enhance growth and fruit production
- Crop remains can be used as mulch to minimize moisture loss and weed suppression
- The field should be scouted for diseases and insect pest attack. Viral infected seedling should be uprooted and buried.
- Application of pesticides for control against Aphids and Mildew can be applied regularly

### Application of Inorganic Fertilizers

Papaya plants are susceptible to Chlorine therefore fertilizers will not be applied. One week after transplanting apply 28g compound fertilizer with high level of Phosphate; **Agrigrow (Crystalline) Seedling Starter Extra® – High P (14:28:18; NPK)**

Thereafter, fortnightly to each seedling apply 56g of compound fertilizer with high level of Nitrogen; **Agrigrow (Crystalline) Vegetative Extra® – High N (30:10:10; NPK)**

Potassium is highly needed during flowering and fruiting stage. Therefore at that stage apply to every seedling 114g of compound fertilizer with high level of Potassium monthly; **Agrigrow (Crystalline) Flowering and Fruiting Extra® – High K (15:5:35; NPK)**

Foliar feeds with high Boron content should also be applied monthly for good fruit bearing

### Watering

Water is essential for Papaya growth, flowering and fruit setting. Therefore during fruit setting apply about 23 Litres of water per plant per week. On average is about 3 Litres of water per Hectare per plant per day. If possible drip irrigation can be adopted.

### Weeds

Fields should be weed free in order to minimize competition to moisture, nutrients and light. As well as eliminating possible areas which can harbour insect pests and pathogen.

