



Edible Tropical Plants

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Most Commonly Grown Indoor Tropical Plants

***Avocado** (*Persea americana*)- Miniature, 3-6 feet, upright tree. March-April. Moderate feeder. Full sun. Well-drained, peat-based mix, 35 degrees minimum night temperature.

***Banana** (*Musa spp*)-3-6 feet, upright herbaceous plant. Intermittent year round. High feeder, needs a lot of potassium. Full sun, well-drained mix, 60 degrees minimum night temperature, some will tolerate temps as low as 40.

***Citrus** (calamondin, citron, grapefruit, kumquat, tangerine, orange, lemon and lime)- all sizes dwarf (3-5 feet) or full size 10 feet. Full sun, well-drained mix, 50 degrees minimum night temperature, some will tolerate colder temperatures.

***Dragon Fruit** (*Hylocereus undatus*) 4-6 feet with support; orchid cactus with sprawling vines. Summer bloomer. Light feeder. Full to partial sun, the more the better. Well-drained mix, 50 degrees minimum night temperature.

***Dwarf Pomegranate** (*Punica granatum 'Nana'*)- 1 to 3 feet, deciduous, spring into summer. Moderate feeder. Full to partial sun, well-drained mix, 35 degrees minimum night temperature.

***Fig** (*Ficus carica*)- 3-5 feet bush or small tree. Spring through summer. Moderate feeder. Full sun, any potting mix. 25 degrees minimum night temperature.

***Guava** (*Psidium spp.*)- 3-6 feet, spring through summer. Moderate feeder. Full sun, well-drained mix, 40 degrees minimum night temperature.

***June Plum** (*Spondias dulcis*)- 4-6 feet, upright, deciduous. Summer bloomer. Moderate feeder. Full to partial sun, well drained mix, 40 degrees minimum night temperature.

***Naranjulla** (*Solanum quitoense*)- 2-4 feet with pruning; upright herbaceous plant. year-round blooming. Heavy feeder. Full sun to partial shade, well-drained mix, 60 degrees minimum night temperature.

***Noni** (*Nirubda citrifolia*)- 4-8 feet with pruning; upright tree. Year-round. Moderate feeder. Full to partial sun, well-drained mix, 60 degrees minimum night temperature.



- ***Olive** (*Olea* spp.)- 3-6 feet in containers. Late winter through spring. Moderate feeder. Full sun, any mix, 30 degrees minimum night temperature.
- ***Papaya** (*Carica papaya*)- 3-5 feet. Year-round bloomer. Light to moderate feeding. Full sun, well-drained mix. Warm, 60 degrees minimum temperature.
- ***Passion Fruit** (*Passiflora* spp)- 3-6 feet with support; woody vine. Year-round, depends on variety. Moderate feeder. Full sun, well-drained mix, 60 degrees, but can tolerate colder temperatures.
- ***Pineapple** (*Ananus comosus*)- 2-3 feet. Year-round. Light feeder. Full sun, well-drained potting mix, 60 degrees minimum night temperature.
- ***Pineapple Guava** (*Feijoa sellowiana* or *Acca* spp)- 4-7 feet with pruning; upright; open shrub. Spring bloomer. Moderate feeder. Full to partial sun, well-drained mix, 35 degree minimum night temperature.
- ***Star Fruit** (*Averrhoa carambola*)- 4-5 feet with pruning; multi-stemmed tree. Intermittently year-round. Moderate feeder. Full sun, well-drained mix, 55 degrees minimum night temperature.
- ***Peppers** (all types)- 2-5 feet with pruning bush. Year-round fruit production. Heavy feeder. Needs 4 to 6 hours direct sunlight. Well-drained mix. 55 degrees minimum night temperature.
- ***Tomato** (Red Robyn)- 2-4 feet with pruning, bush. Wonderful, plum- sized fruit, good production year round. Heavy feeder. Will grow in some shade. Well-drained mix. Minimum 55 degree night temperature.
- ***Tree Tomato** (*Cyphomandra crassicaulis*)- 3-5 feet with pruning; bush or small tree, Spring-fall blooming, Heavy feeder. Full to partial sun, well-drained mix, 35 degrees minimum night temperature.
- ***Chocolate** (*Theobroma cacao*)- 5-6 feet with pruning; upright tree, Year-round, Moderate feeder. Full to partial sun, well-drained mix, 60 degrees minimum will tolerate short cold periods.
- ***Coffee** (*Coffea arabica*)- 5-6 feet; upright tree or bush, Intermittently year-round, Moderate feeder. Full to partial sun, well-drained mix, 40 degrees minimum night temperature.
- ***Tea** (*Camellia sinensis*)- 3-5 feet; shrub, spring bloomer, light feeder. Partial sun, well-drained, acidic potting mix, 30 degrees minimum night temperature.



***Yerba Mate** (*Ilex paraguariensis*)- 2-8 feet with pruning; shrub or tree, moderate feeder. Full to partial sun, well-drained mix, 50 degrees minimum night temperature.

***Black Pepper** (*Piper nigrum*)- 2-3 feet with support and pruning, woody vine, year-round, moderate feeder. Partial sun to shade, some direct sun will help with flowering. Well-drained mix.

***Cinnamon** (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum*)- 3-8 feet with pruning and container size, spring to summer, moderate feeder. Full to partial sun, well-drained soil, 60 degrees minimum temperature.

***Sugarcane** (*Saccharum officinarum*)- 5-6 feet; perennial grass, variable, light feeder. Full sun, well-drained mix, 40 degrees minimum night temperature.

***Vanilla Orchid** (*Vanilla planifolia*)- 5-10 feet with support; woody vine, spring through fall, light feeder. Partial sun, terrestrial orchid potting mix, 60 degrees minimum night temperature.

* **Etc... (COLD CROPS)**- Lettuce, spinach, broccoli. Short growing, less than 1 foot. Heavy feeder. Full to partial sun. Needs to be kept cool, below 60 night temperature.

Thinking about growing indoor edible plants?

Consider these questions/options:

Which plant do you want to grow?

- Look at the different variety of plants and see what will work for you.

Are you limited in space?

- How large will it grow?
- Can it be controlled by pruning or be kept in a smaller container?

How long will it take to set fruit? Will it fruit without pollinators?

- How much fruit will it produce?

What kind of growing conditions and special care.

- Is this the right temperature Tropical or sub-tropical?
- Do I need special lighting? HID or Florescent, Day length, does in need short or long days to flower?

Is the plant appealing?

When to transplant and repot

Choosing a container, what is the right size? Will you have to move it from outside?



Potting mixes- well drained.

Watering- when and how much to water.

Fertilizers-how often? Organic vs. chemical

- Light, moderate and heavy feeders; iron deficiency.

Pruning- (best time to prune) spring and early summer

- **Plant forms:** Central leader (vine), bushy form and standards.

Pinching

- **Plants that need hard pruning:** Avocado, citrus, fig, tomato and Yerba mate.
- **Plants that hardly ever need pruning:** Banana, pineapple and vanilla.