

# Red Lady Papaya



Enjoy this beauty  
in a pot and wow  
the neighbors with  
the enormous fruit!

## *Carica papaya* 'Red Lady'

- **Use:** An early and productive fruiter, 'Red Lady' is an excellent papaya for southern gardens or as a tropical container fruiting plant in the north. The dwarf tree starts to flower and set fruit during its second year when the plant reaches 4' tall. It can fruit the first year, if grown in high light with an extended growing season. Papaya has an enzyme that soothes the stomach and calms indigestion. The fruit is commonly consumed as a breakfast food, and it is often juiced as well. Red Lady is a dwarf self pollinating variety that is also especially resistant to papaya ring spot virus and can also be container grown, excellent for colder areas. The fruit typically weigh four to six pounds, and it has excellent flavor, aroma, and texture. Great value since Papaya is usually sold by the pound and can cost upwards of \$5 each.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Grow in full sun. Well-drained, rich soil. pH of 5.5 to 6.5 necessary.
- **Growth:** When your tree matures, it will be approximately 8' tall
- **Hardiness: Zone** 10-12; Tropical Tree.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Do not prune mature trees heavily because this can reduce the crop.
- **Flower/ Fruit:** 'Red Lady' is a self-fertile hybrid whose fruits often weigh 3-5 pounds. Two-pound fruits are more common for container grown plants. The oblong papaya is orange-red, sweet and juicy when ripe. Rich in vitamins A, C and other nutrients, it also contains papain, an enzyme that aids in the digestion of protein. Harvest the fruit when the skin yields slightly to the touch and changes from green to yellow. You'll notice a sweet, delicious aroma when it's fully ripe. Green papayas are sometimes shredded and used in salads or stews.

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