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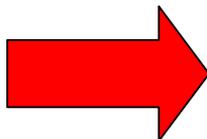
Information Sheet – High quality seedlings for success

Seed purity is critical to ensure that characteristics such as size, flesh colour, sweetness and flavour are maintained. In the past, the Fiji industry has suffered from a decline in the purity of this seed line which has been recognised by the market.

High Quality Seedlings



High Quality Trees and Fruit



Currently the majority of commercial papaya plantings come from seed imported from the University of Hawaii. At present there are at least 5 groups importing seed from the University of Hawaii; including,

- Natures Way Cooperative (NWC)
- Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM)
- Southern Development Company (SDC)
- 2 farmer/exporter companies

Farmers are encouraged to purchase seed or seedlings from one of these groups in order to ensure your papaya planting will be of high quality and suitable for export.

Can I collect and sow my own seeds?

Under natural conditions papaya flowers are open pollinated. If you collect and sow seed from one of your fruit, this seed will most certainly be cross pollinated, with the high probability that the seed has been contaminated with wild papayas in the area. Papaya pollen is light and dry and can be blown distances of up to two kilometers. The seed from a cross pollinated flower will combine the characteristics of the both parents, one of which could be a wild papaya located in the area. This means the resulting tree will bear fruit that may not have all the desirable characteristics of ‘Solo Sunrise’.

However a hermaphroditic papaya flower can be self pollinated if it is bagged before cross pollination with other papaya trees in the area occurs. The seed produced from this self pollinated fruit will display all the characteristics of the parent tree.

Emeritus Professor Nakasone in a seminar at the Sigatoka Research Station provided the following guidelines for the selection of papaya trees for bagging and seed collection¹:

- A good papaya tree can be identified soon after initial fruit set begins.
- The characteristics sought after are, fruit set beginning low on the trunk; a preponderance of normal hermaphroditic flowers on all nodes; early fruit set; fruit that meets the required flesh colour, size, brix and shape characteristics.
- Never use seeds that exhibit a tendency to produce male type flowers².
- Select trees with none or very few carpellic (“cat face”) fruit.
- Selected trees should be monitored during an entire production year. Sometimes a tree, which is considered to be a good tree during the early selection period, may turnout to be poor tree.



Standby for locally collected, high quality Solo Sunrise seeds as part of the Fiji Papaya Projects goal to establish local commercial seed and seedling enterprises.

¹ Nakasone Henry Y, Fiji Papaya Consultancy Report. Consultancy Series under USAID’s Commercial Agricultural Development Project., South Pacific Series.

² During periods of dry, warm (night temperature) conditions even good trees produce some male flowers. However, this is only for a short period.