



MANGO

(*Mangifera indica*)

The Mango was first cultivated about 4000 years ago in India and the Malay Archipelago. It was introduced into the Caribbean in the 1780's.

The tree usually has a short trunk but the somewhat heavy branches and the narrow dark green leaves generally spread out into a large round crown. The leaves are 10-25 cm long, are reddish when young and dark green, thick, shiny and leathery as they get older. *Mangifera* grows up to 20 m in height and occurs at elevations from to 1500 m.

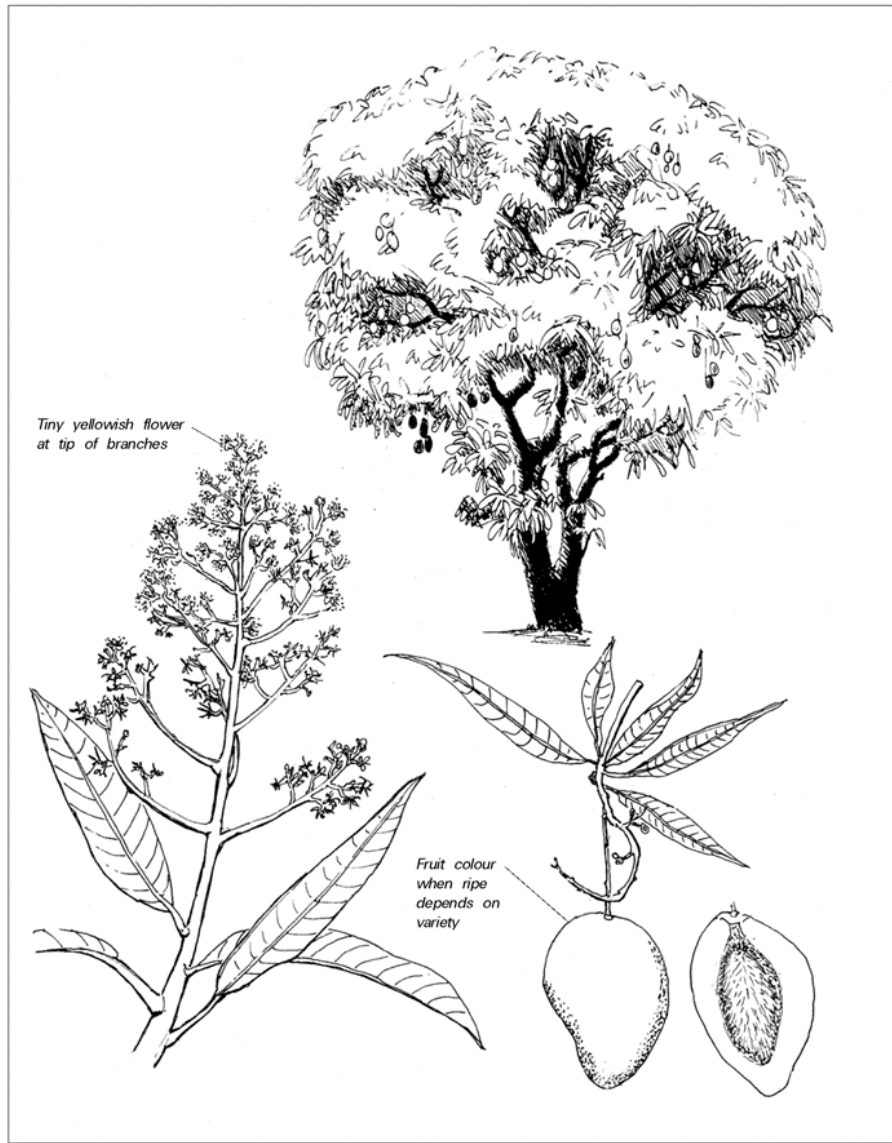
Small greenish white, fragrant flowers appear in terminal clusters (i.e., at the ends of branches) in the dry season. In Jamaica this is usually just before and after Christmas time. The fruits which hang from long stalks ripen in the wet season (May to June). It takes about five months for the blossoms to develop into ripe mangoes. The mangoes are kidney-shaped and as long as 10 cm. The skin when ripe can be green, or shades of orange or yellow.

Mango pulp is juicy, yellow-orange in colour and is very tasty. Unripe mangoes are good for making chutneys and the ripe fruits used for juices as well as preserves.

There is a large variety of mangoes with interesting names which change from place to place. When the mangoes first arrived amongst them was one labeled No. 11 and from this the mango got its name.

MANGO (*Mangifera indica*)

Family: Anacardiaceae	Species: <i>Mangifera indica</i>	Author: Linnaeus
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Height: 20m	Habitat: Cultivated, sea level-1000m	Persistence: Evergreen
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