



Carica L. Caricaceae 'TR Hovey'

'TR Hovey' is a dwarf papaya that was hybridized for hydroponic culture and is perfect for growing in pots. So if you love papaya and have limited space or you're way north of Miami, TR Hovey is the one to try. With the right cultural conditions 'TR Hovey' will grow quickly and produce ripe fruit in as little as 9 months reaching 6-8' at maturity. Fruit will start developing only 12" from the base of the plant.

Plant Highlights

- Grows from 6-8 ft tall.
- Perfect for growing in containers.
- Great for that tropical look on your patio or in the landscape.

TR Hovey is a hybrid papaya you can grow in a 17 inch container. Mr. Hovey (yes, there really was a Mr. Hovey) through hybridization developed a papaya plant that was self fertile and a dwarf - both big achievements in the papaya world.

Most papaya plants are huge, 10-12ft, and you need 2 or more plants to get fruit. That's because papaya plants can have either male, female or male/female flowers and you don't know which you will get until the plant flowers!

Originally developed for container and hydroponic culture, the TR Hovey can also be grown in the ground in tropical climates. The TR Hovey maxes out at 4-8ft and only achieves the taller heights if planted in the ground. Amazingly the TR Hovey starts setting fruit low, 12 inches from the plants base, and within 9-12 months.

Whether in a container or in the ground here are a few tips you need to know to grow a healthy papaya.

- Always plant your papaya in soil that is well drained. Soggy soil will kill a papaya as root rot can develop. No saucers under your containers, please! Water thoroughly but keep the soil dry-ish in Winter and moist in Summer.
- You must maintain a soil temperature of 60F for year round fruiting. So when you take your TR Hovey inside for the Winter, the air temperature should be over 65-75F and the hotter the better.
- Papayas hate cold, even a frost will kill them. Cold soil, like wet soil, will make a papaya plant develop root rot. Once root rot starts, the plant dies.
- Remember to turn your plant a ¼ turn each week so the plant will grow straight. This is only a concern if your papaya is on a porch/deck and not in direct sunshine.
- All papayas have a limited life span; after all they are a plant not a tree. Typically you will replace your TR Hovey in 3-4 years when it stops setting fruit.

So if you love papaya and have limited space or you're way north of Miami, TR Hovey is the one to try.

Zones: 9-11 Mature Height/Spread: 4-6 (10) feet

Growth Rate: Rapid

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Soil Type: All kinds of soil as long as it is well-drained

Water: Dry-ish in Winter, Moist in Summer but not wet.

