

PLANT PAPAYA FOR PROFIT



INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

NEW DELHI

Price : Six Naya Paisa

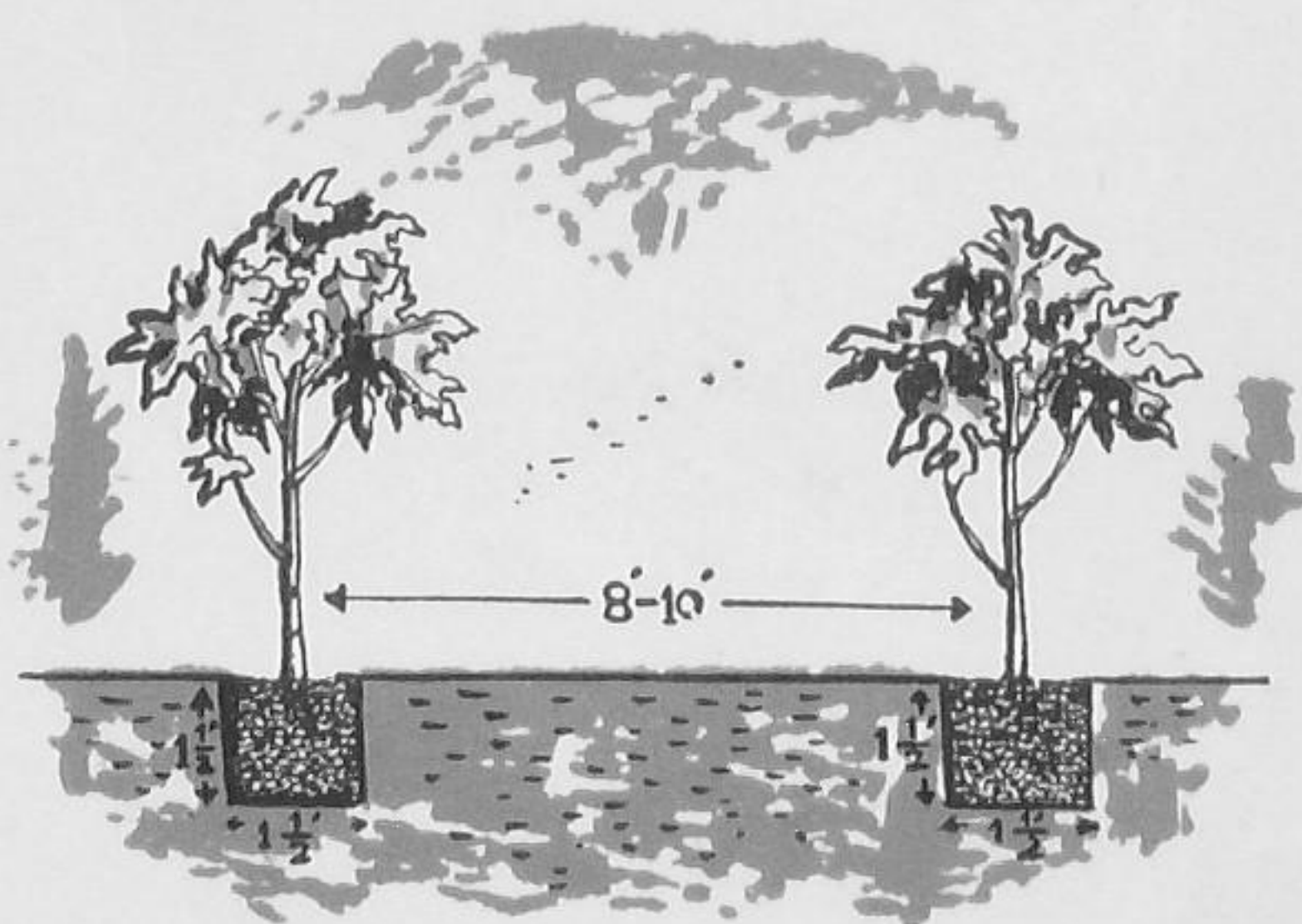
GROW PAPAYA IN WARM AND WELL-DRAINED SOIL

Papaya grows well in sunny places. It cannot stand frosty temperatures. Rich loams are considered to be the best. You must provide drainage facilities in your land so that excess water does not stay. The trees are destroyed by "collar rot" disease if water stays on in the soils.

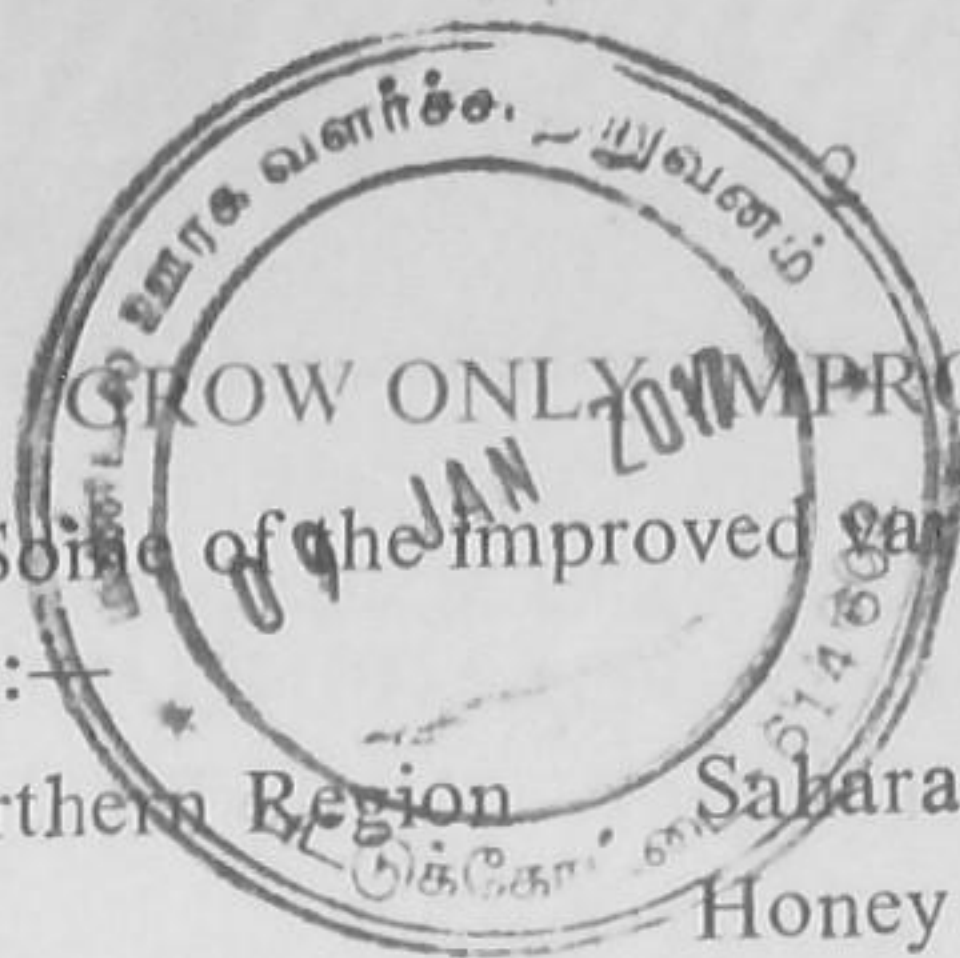
PLANT PAPAYA IN WELL PREPARED SOIL

In summer plough your land a number of times

and level it up. Dig pits $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet \times $1\frac{1}{2}$ \times $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet at a distance of eight to ten feet. Fill the pits with surface soil mixed with farm yard



manure at the rate of 40 to 50 pounds per pit. Also add three pounds of bonemeal per pit. Apply water to the land so that the contents of the pits settle properly. When in workable condition the papaya seedlings should be planted in middle of these pits. The seedlings should not be lower than the surface soil because the water will collect round the seedlings and prove harmful.



Some of the improved varieties of papaya are listed below :—

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|--------------------|--|
| 1. Northern Region | Saharanpur Selections,
Honey Dew, Washington |
| 2. Eastern Region | Washington, South Africa,
Ceylonese Round, Ranchi,
Honey Dew |
| 3. Southern Region | Honey Dew, Washington,
Long, Round |
| 4. Western Region | Washington, Honey Dew,
Gujrati |

Seeds or seedlings of these varieties should either be obtained from the Government nurseries or from commercial nurseries of established reputation.

HOW TO RAISE SEEDLINGS

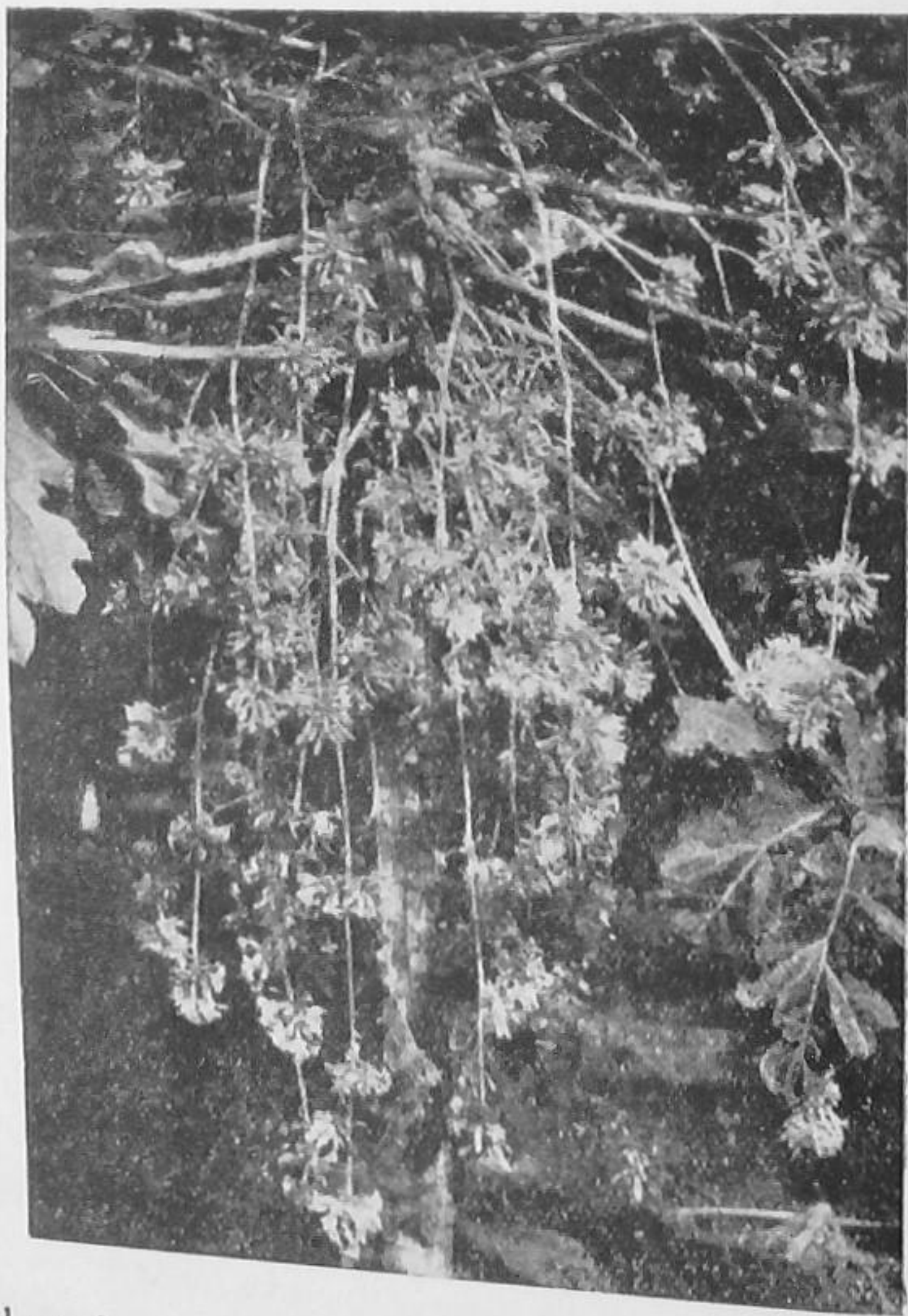
If your interest is to have a few plants in your kitchen garden then it is better to obtain a few seedlings from reputed nursery. If on the other hand, you are planning a papaya plantation in a large area, you should raise your own seedlings. This is how you should proceed.

Prepare seed beds about six inches above the ground level to ensure good drainage. Add two baskets each of silt and leaf mould to the seed-bed to encourage healthy growth of seedlings. Sow freshly extracted seeds one inch apart, in rows three inches apart. Water the seed-bed daily if there is no rain. In three weeks

time the seeds germinate. When the seedlings are about 9 inches high they are ready for transplantation.

SAVE SEEDLINGS FROM "DAMPING OFF" DISEASE

This disease causes rotting of the seedlings. The simplest way to prevent this loss is to sterilize the soil of the seed-bed with "formalin". To do this mix one pound of commercial 'formalin with six gallons of water and saturate the soil with this solution. Then cover



the soil surface with newspapers to make this treatment

more effective. This treatment should be given about twelve days before sowing of the seeds.

PLANT PAPAYA PROPERLY

An important thing to remember in papaya is that it bears male flowers on one plant and female flowers on another. For regular and heavy fruiting it is essential to have both male and female plants in your orchard. Since it is not possible to distinguish female plant from male at the seedling stage, it is necessary that you should plant two to three seedlings per pit. When the seedlings have reached the bearing stage, it is possible to determine their sex. Male plants flower earlier and are recognised by their flowers. Keep one male plant for every 10 females or 10 male plants for 100 females.

The best time to plant seedlings is the rainy season. The land is then moist and the seedlings get established quickly in the soil.

MANURING AND IRRIGATION

For giving a good start to the plants and for ensuring heavy bearing, soils should be adequately manured. Manuring at the time of transplantation is not enough. Second manuring should be given about four months after transplanting. Apply 80 to 100 pounds of farmyard manure per plant.

Manuring is done again for the third time when the plants are one year old. You should apply 80 to 100 pounds of farmyard manure per plant at this stage. It is necessary that the application of manure is accompanied by digging. In addition, also apply two pounds of fertilizer mixture per tree consisting of three parts by

weight of super phosphate, one part of ammonium sulphate and one and a half of potassium sulphate. Application of this mixture will increase the yield and improve the quality of fruits. The third manuring along with the application of fertilizer mixture should be practiced every year.

Successful papaya culture requires an abundant supply of water for the plants. Do not reduce irrigation during its period of growth or the trees will receive a severe setback.

PLANTS NEED YOUR CARE AND PROTECTION

The following steps should be taken to keep the plants healthy and maintain their productivity :—

- (1) Soil should be ploughed and harrowed at least twice a year.
- (2) Weeding should be done regularly so that unwanted plants do not deprive the papaya plants of their food.

CONTROL INSECT PESTS AND DISEASES

Red Spider is an important insect enemy of the papaya plant. It attacks leaves and fruits. When the insect has attacked the crop, the leaves become yellow and the fruits become rough and brownish. To check the insect, dust the affected plants with sulphur or spray them with lime sulphur.

Anthracnose affects the leaves and fruits which fall off prematurely. To control this disease, spray the plants with Burgundy mixture. To prepare this mixture add 10 pounds of copper sulphate and 12 pounds washing soda to 100 gallons water.

Collar Rot disease causes the rotting of papaya trunks. To prevent this, do not allow water to come in direct contact with the trunks. Provide good drainage facilities in your plantation.

THINNING PAYS

It pays to thin fruit clusters when several fruits set in a cluster instead of single fruit at each node. To avoid losses from overcrowding, thin the fruit clusters, leaving not more than two fruits at each node. To get good results, perform this operation



immediately after fruit set.

HARVESTING

Pick the fruits when they develop streaks of yellow colour. Do not allow them to turn fully yellow. Fully ripened fruits suffer damage from attacks by birds and wasps and may fall on the ground.

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