Pappaya

Carica papaya

Code: TREE-D2E9A183AD22DF0 **Location:** XIM University Campus **Local / Vernacular name:** ଅମୃତଭଣ୍ଡା

Botanical Details

Leaf habit: Papaya is an evergreen plant, meaning it retains its leaves throughout the year under suitable tropical conditions. It continuously produces new leaves and fruits without a seasonal leaf fall. Flowers / Fruits: Papaya produces small, fragrant, creamy-white flowers that grow in clusters. The plant can be male, female, or bisexual. The fruit is a large, fleshy berry that is pear-shaped or round, with orange or yellow flesh and numerous black seeds inside. The fruit is rich in vitamins A, C, and E. Native range: Papaya is native to Central America and southern Mexico. From there, it spread to South America, Asia, Africa, and other tropical regions through human cultivation. Today, it is grown worldwide in warm climates for its fruit and medicinal value.

Uses & Importance

Ecological: Papaya contributes to local ecosystems by supporting pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and moths through its flowers. Its fruits serve as a food source for birds, mammals, and insects, aiding in seed dispersal. The plant grows quickly and helps in maintaining green cover in tropical regions, contributing to soil health and microclimatic regulation.

Medicinal: Papaya is widely used in traditional medicine. The fruit contains papain, a digestive enzyme that helps in protein digestion and is used to treat indigestion and bloating. Papaya leaves are used in folk medicine to help improve platelet count, especially during dengue fever. The seeds, bark, and latex have antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and antiparasitic properties.

Cultural: Papaya holds cultural significance in many tropical countries. It is commonly used in religious offerings, traditional cuisines, and festivals. In many Asian cultures, raw papaya is used in salads and pickles, while ripe papaya is eaten as a dessert fruit. It is also associated with health, fertility, and prosperity in some traditions.

Location

GPS: 20.15860192, 85.76535449

Directions: https://www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&travelmode=walking&destination=20.15860192%2C85.76535449