

'EXEL', A HIGH QUALITY DESSERT MANGO

Philip J. Ito, Horticulturist
Richard A. Hamilton, Emeritus Professor of Horticulture
Herbert Rapoza, Farm Foreman



Fig. 1. 'Exel' tree.

'Exel' is a new, high quality mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cultivar developed by the Department of Horticulture, University of Hawaii. It was named for its excellent quality, texture, and flavor.

Origin

'Exel' was selected from an open-pollinated population of 'Irwin' seedlings. This seedling progeny was grown at Poamoho experimental farm. 'Exel' was first selected in 1978. It was given the selection number ER1T1 and was propagated and distributed for testing at several branch stations. Scions have also been distributed for testing at various locations during the past 10 years.

Description

Young trees of 'Exel' begin to bear three to four years after transplanting into the orchard. Seven-year-old trees are upright with rounded crowns, wide crotch angles, and strong branch structure (Fig. 1). 'Exel' bears regularly, sets well, and frequently flowers during the off season. Fruits usually mature in July and August but in some years may mature as late as October.

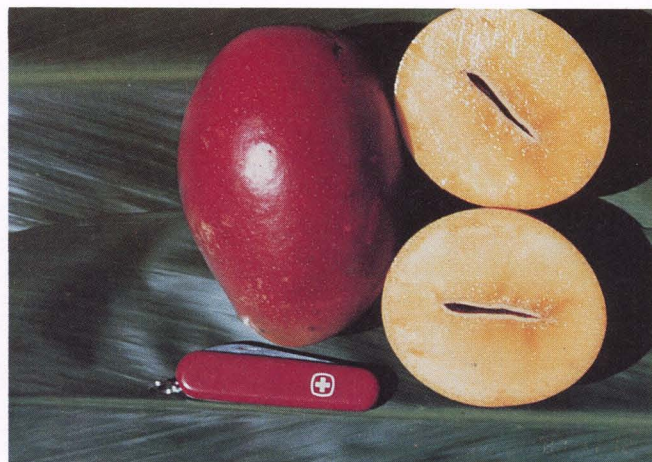


Fig. 2. 'Exel' fruit.

'Exel' fruits are ovate, measuring 4 to 5.6 in (10 to 14 cm) in length by 2.8 to 3.6 in (7 to 9 cm) in width, with a short, rounded beak (Fig. 2). Average fruit weight ranges from 14.1 to 17.6 oz (400 to 500 g). The peduncle is set squarely at the top of the fruit. Immature fruits are green with a purple blush, turning to yellow with a red overcolor on about half of the surface as the fruit matures.

The flesh is firm and orange-yellow in color. It is juicy, sweet, and fiberless. The average of refractometer readings is 18 percent total soluble solids. Due to the thin, flat seed, more than 90 percent of the fruit is edible flesh. The quality is excellent, and 'Exel' is a deliciously flavored mango with smooth, firm-textured flesh. The flowers and immature fruit of 'Exel' are subject to anthracnose damage and, because of this, it should be grown in dry, sunny areas where the anthracnose problem is minimal.

Availability

Limited amounts of scionwood are available from the Department of Horticulture, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822.