

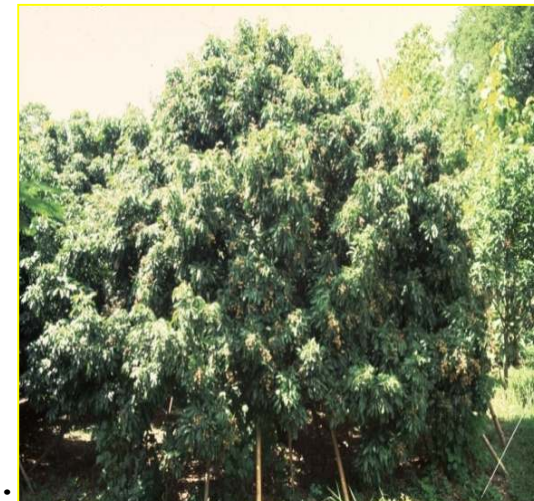
SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) News No. 23.2: Late season longan

1. Description: The seedlings are produced by grafting methods. This variety grows well in soil and weather condition in most northern provinces of Vietnam. The tree forms branches early, is 3-4m in height and 4-5m in canopy diameter. It flowers from March to April. Fruits are harvested between August and September. Flowers usually appear after grafting but the flowers from the first 1-3 years are often removed to support tree development.

- Advantages: Late season longan grows very well and flowers every year. Trees can give harvests after 3 years. Fruits are big with nice appearance and thick flesh, watering, flavorsome and tasty. This longan has a good market with the double or triple price higher than other varieties. Farmers can harvest from 200 to 250kg fruits/tree after 7 years.
- Fruits can be eaten fresh or processed as dry flesh or fruit.

2. Planting area and planting season:

- Longan grows well in sandy or alluvial soil. It can be planted around home gardens, around the edge of a pond, in field with good drainage, on hills or slightly slopping land areas. According to traditional practice in many areas, plantation of longan around the edge of a fish pond can contribute to the improvement of pond water quality.
- Planting season: All time over the year but it is the best in spring.



3. Planting and tending:

3.1 Planting and tending young plants:

- Prepare planting holes with the size of 60x60x60cm or 80x80x80cm 1-2 months before planting; apply 15-20 kg composted manure, 1kg super phosphate, 100g urea, 100g potassium, 2kg NPK in each hole, fill up holes with soil and mix well before planting.
- Planting at interval of 5x5m in flat land or 7x7m in sloping land.
- Water trees with 4-5 litre/hole right after planting and keep watering regularly when the weather get dry or hot and make protecting fence to prevent animals from destroying the trees.

** Regularly check to cut off all the shoots growing from the rootstocks.*

3.2 Tending developed trees:

- Pruning and shaping: Cutting off the top of tree when it gets 80-100cm in height for easy harvest and stimulating branch development.

First pruning: 1 year after planting, between September and October, cutting off all branches except for 4-5 main branches heading towards different directions.

Second pruning: 2 years after planting, shaping by cutting off branches growing beyond the main branches to reduce the tree height and canopy area. Inside the canopy, prune all the low, shaded branches and branches infected with insect pests and diseases.

Pruning developed trees regularly: Cutting off old, thin branches and branches infected with insect pests and diseases after harvesting fruit.

- Fertiliser application: Before having flower and after harvesting fruit, preparing a furrow sized 30x50cm around a tree at 80-100cm apart from the tree then add composted manure 50-100kg into the furrow before covering with soil and watering. We can use the liquid fertiliser from biogas systems to water the plants 2-3 times per week.

4. Pest and disease control:

- Stink bug is the most common insect pest on longan. Shaking a tree to make stink bugs fall onto the ground then catching and killing them.



- Longan can be infected with witches' broom disease. If the disease appears, cut off infected branches, leaves and the top of tree and then burn them.

- To protect the trees from stem borers, paint the tree base (up 1m from the ground) with lime at the end of the year.

“witches’ broom” disease



Dry longan flesh



Longan fruit and lotus seed



Dry longan fruit



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Project telephone: 0230-8500-868

Email: SUSFORM.NOW.LDC@gmail.com