

## SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) News No. 23.3: Seedless persimmon

**1. Description:** Persimmon is propagated by budding. Developed trees have one or more stems, round canopy with 4.5 – 6m diameter. Branches are easy to be broken by strong wind. Fruit is round, slightly square with attached calyx. Ripe fruit has orange colour with no seed.



Grafted trees give the first harvest 2-3 years after being planted. However, it is recommended to cut off the first 3 year flowers to enable good tree development.

### **2. Planting area and planting season:**

- In Vietnam, seedless persimmon adapts well in northern mountainous areas such as Son La, Lao Cai, Dien Bien, Lang Son. It grows well in good light and moist, thick top layer soil condition.



- Persimmon can be planted around home garden, at the edge of a pond, in field, valley or in low hills with good drainage. If the sloping area is more than 10°, need to plant persimmon trees in terraces.

- Best planting time is Jan – Feb (before or after Tet) when the plants stop developing and contain a good source of nutrients.

### **3. Planting and tending:**

#### **3.1 Planting and tending young plants:**

- Preparing planting holes sized 50x50x50cm or 80x80x80cm 1-2 months before planting; apply to each hole 30-50kg composted manure and 0.5-1kg super phosphate, 0.5kg potassium, 0.5kg powdered lime mixed well with soil and then cover the hole with soil up to 5-10cm above the ground. Planting space 4x4m or 5x5m.

- After planting, trim off some leaves, water and make protecting fence around the plants to prevent damage. Keep watering regularly to maintain good moisture for the plants to develop.



### 3.2 Tending developed trees:

- Pruning and shaping: First pruning: cut off all of branches except for the main tree trunk 1-2 month after planting. Second pruning: around 6 months since the first pruning, leave only 3-4 main branches heading towards different directions. Third pruning: at the end of the first year, leave 2-3 strong branches in each main branch before cutting others. In the second year, only prune old, thin branches, branches growing over leaf canopy and branches infected with insect pests and diseases. Fruits only appear in 2 years old branches.

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

- Fertiliser application: In the first 3 years, apply 100g Urea, 100g phosphate, 100g potassium once each year.

Method: prepare a furrow sized 20x30cm around a tree at 50-80cm apart from the tree and then add the fertiliser into the furrow before covering with soil, mulching with dry weed and watering. Additionally, apply composted manure at a rate of 30-50kg for each tree every 2 years. We can use the liquefied fertiliser from biogas systems to water the plants 2 times per week in order to improve nutrition soil.

- Weed regularly and clear all the weeds around the tree area so that the tree can be exposed to more sunlight.

### 4. Pest and disease control:

- Kaki is commonly infested with fruit borers. When the problem first appears, spray Trebon 0,1% and collect young fruits fell on the floor to destroy them.

- Mealybugs can damage young leaves. If the problem occurs, control the bugs by spraying Supracide 0,1% or Trebon 0,1%.

- The common diseases are anthracnose and powdery mildew, often occurring between July and September. Leaves turn yellow and shed. Control these diseases by spraying Bordeaux 1% or Kasuran 1%.



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



Date 17/07/2012 (Code 2.2.5)

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