1.Description: Dracontomelon is the green tree with huge canopy, some trees are up to 30m in height and 1m tree base diameter. The tree is planted for fruit and shade, flower appears between April and May, fruit ripens from August to October. The fruit can be used for cooking sour soup, making sugared dry fruit, embalming with sugar, making sweet - and – sour dessert. In addition, the fruit can be used for people having a cough and sore throat, making drink and good for the digestive system.

Most seedlings are produced from seeds. Tree starts flowering and fruiting 5-6 years after planting but only becomes productive and bears many fruits 10 years after planting.
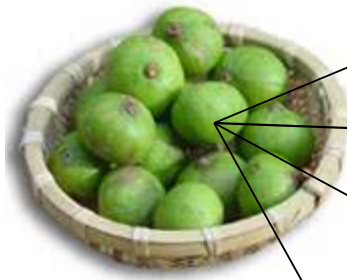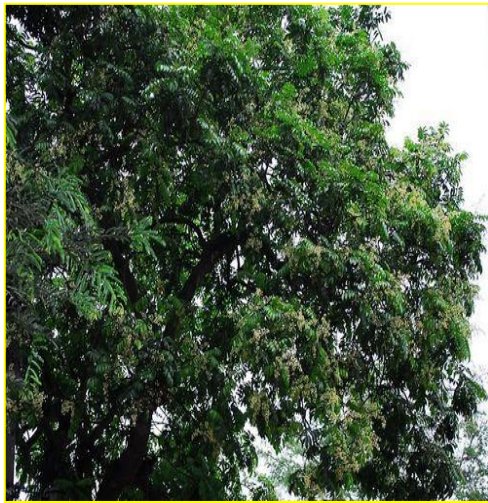
Cooking soup

Embalm with sugar

Sugared dry fruit

Sweet-and-sour dessert

2. Planting and tending:

- The tree grows well in sandy and alluvial soil with the top soil layer being less than 1m thick.

- Dracontomelon can be planted around home gardens, around the edge of a pond, beside roads, on hills or slightly slopping land areas. Avoid planting in area having hoarfrost regularly.

- Planting all time over the year but it is best in spring.

3. Planting and tending:

3.1 Planting and tending young plants:

- Prepare planting holes with size of 60x60x60cm or 80x80x80cm 1-2 months before planting; apply 15-20kg composted manual, 1kg super phosphate, 100g urea, 100g potassium, 2kg NPK in each hole, fill up holes with soil and mix different types of fertilizer well before planting. Planting at interval of 5x5m in flat land or 7x7m in sloping land.
- If planting the trees for fruits, plant them at the interval of 5-7m between rows and 2-3m between trees. Cut down the trees with few fruits 5-6 years after planting.
- After planting trees in holes, trim the leaves to prevent wilting then watering the seedling with 4-5litre/hole. Regularly watering the trees while the weather is dry and hot in order to maintain the moisture of 75-80% in the first 20 days. Make protecting fence to prevent animals from destroying the trees.

3.2 Tending developed trees:

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

For the trees used for shading, cutting off the top of tree when it gets 1.2-2m in height. After 1 year, cut off the second branches and keep only 3-4 main branches heading towards different directions.

- Fertiliser application: + Apply 200g urea, 100g potassium, 100g phosphate per tree every 2-3 months for the first 5 years.
+ When trees start bearing fruits, apply 20-30kg composted manure; 200-300g urea; 500-1000g phosphate; 100-200g potassium per tree each year. Apply additional fertiliser before flowering (in January) with the amount of 200-300g urea; 200-300g potassium per tree. Apply additional fertiliser before fruiting (in April) with the amount of 200-300g urea; 300-500g potassium per tree. Fertilisers should be applied after raining or watering. Method: Sprinkle the fertilisers on the soil around the foot of a tree, spread them to the edge of the tree canopy and then water to dissolve fertiliser.

4. Pest and disease control :

- Dracontomelon suffers from few pests and diseases, sometimes it is infested with stem borers. To control stem borers we need to find the marks of borers, use a cylinder to spray insecticide into the place of borer residence in the tree and then stop the gaps.

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