

Cultural Information- Carica
(KAIR-ih-kuh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures above 60°. They need it warm.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Water thoroughly, until the water trickles from the bottom of the pot, and then don't water again until the surface of the soil is visually dry.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are moderate to heavy feeders during their growing season. Use a balanced fertilizer, such as Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow Plant Food 7-9-5 or Growmore Flower & Bloom 3-6-6 on a regular basis.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Little or no pruning is needed, as they grow upright. Plants that are very tall can be headed back to maintain size.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They are susceptible to spider mite. Spray with Pure Neem Oil at first sign of infestation. Also high susceptibility to root disease under cool, wet conditions. They are prone to exudate, which is the excretion of excess fluids through the surface of the leaves, producing tiny raised beads along the stems. This can be mistaken for mites, and is unsightly but not harmful to the plant.
<u>Comments:</u>	Papayas are fast and easy plants to grow. They need full sun and warm temperatures to perform at their best. Watch for spider mite infestation especially if plants are brought inside for the winter. Grow warm which will mitigate any root disease issues.