# Cultural Information – Spondias
*(SPON-dee-as)*

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| **Light:** | Full sun, a southern exposure. They can be grown in an eastern or western exposure indoors during the winter when not actively growing. |
| **Temperature:** | Maintain indoor temperatures above 50°. Cooler temperatures can lead to root disease when grown in containers in the north. |
| **Humidity:** | Preferably 50% of higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm. |
| **Watering:** | Bring soil to a state of visual dryness between watering. When watering, thoroughly saturate soil until a little water runs out of the bottom of the pot. Growing in a clay pot will help maintain a healthy root system. |
| **Fertilizer:** | They are moderate feeders so ¼ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week. Under the fast growth of summer, increase to ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5. |
| **Pruning:** | They grow with a central leader so no pruning is needed until they begin to flower and fruit. As they can fruit at a young age, it is best to encourage the central stem to grow up to 3' or more before letting them branch. The clusters of fruit can hang down a foot or more, so some height on the plant is needed. Once a desired height is reached, prune to maintain size and form. Best time to prune is after they break dormancy or once the fruit has ripened. |
| **Insects and Disease:** | Spondias have little susceptibility to insects. They are highly susceptible to root disease, especially during the winter months. Grow warm and water only when dry to help manage the diseases. |
| **Comments** | Spondias is fast-growing and bears fruit at a young age. It is best to prune off flowers until the plant has reached a height and size that will support the fruit, usually 2-3'. They are deciduous in the winter where they will defoliate even while holding clusters of fruit. The fruit is best eaten when fully ripe and soft. |