

Kakadu Plum

Terminalia ferdinandiana · Combretaceae, native to Australia

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE Semi-deciduous perennial tree, native to Australia

MATURITY 4–6 years to first useful crop



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Moderate,
drought hardy
once established



SOIL PH
5.0–7.5



SPACING
5–7m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Exceptionally high in vitamin C

Kakadu Plum fruit has the highest recorded vitamin C content of any fruit on earth — reportedly over 50 times that of an orange. A tropical woodland native, it copes with a distinct wet and dry season rather than four seasons.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a nursery pot in a full-sun position with excellent drainage.
SOIL	Well-drained sandy, loam, or clay; tolerates poor soil but not waterlogging.
TIMING	Plant in the build-up to the wet season, in a warm, frost-free position.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Waterlogging** — poor tolerance; ensure sharp drainage.
- **Cold or frost** — limits it to tropical and warm subtropical zones.
- **Slow to fruit** — 4–6 years is normal; be patient.
- **Fruit fly** — net or manage as fruit ripens.

03 Growing care

- Give it full sun — needs it to fruit well.
- Water moderately; established trees are drought hardy but dislike sitting wet.
- Some leaf drop is normal through the dry season — it's semi-deciduous, not unhealthy.
- No frost tolerance — protect or avoid in anywhere it gets cold.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit turns pale yellow-green and slightly soft, usually falling when ripe.
METHOD	Pick by hand or gather freshly fallen fruit from the ground.
CURING	None needed — very sour and astringent, almost always used cooked or processed.
STORAGE	Fridge a few days; freezes well, and is often dried or powdered for later use.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (drying for long-term storage) or Freezing Produce (freezing a harvest surplus) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Other tropical natives	Waterlogged, poorly drained spots	Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree.