

# Soursop Fruit Farming | Natural medicines for Cancer

Research indicates that soursop contains compounds capable of targeting and eliminating cancer cells while sparing healthy cells. Additionally, soursop may contribute to reducing inflammation, boosting the immune system, and offering a rich source of antioxidants, making it a valuable addition to a healthy diet. Thriving in tropical climates with temperatures between 23 and 32 degrees Celsius, soursop cultivation requires an ideal annual rainfall between 1200 and 2000 millimeters. The tree demands good drainage, adequate soil moisture, and prefers well-drained, fertile soils with a pH range of 5.5 to 6.5. It can also tolerate slightly acidic soils with a pH of 5.0 to 7.0, but it is intolerant of waterlogged or saline soils.

## **Propagation and Fertilization:**

Soursop can be propagated through seeds or vegetative methods like grafting, budding, or air layering. While seeds are the most common method, they may not yield fruits of the same quality as the parent tree. Plant soursop trees in areas with full sun exposure and good air circulation, spacing them at least six to eight meters apart for proper growth. Regular fertilization with a balanced fertilizer having an NPK ratio of 666 or 839 every three months is essential to produce high-quality fruits.

## **Tree Management:**

Regular watering, especially during the dry season, is crucial for soursop trees. A drip irrigation system proves efficient in conserving water and ensuring the roots receive adequate moisture. These trees are susceptible to pests and diseases such as fruit flies, mealybugs, mites, and anthracnose.

Preventive measures, including proper sanitation and regular monitoring, are essential. Insecticides and fungicides can be applied when necessary. Harvest soursop fruits when fully mature and at their optimal size, picking them carefully by hand to avoid damage, leaving the stem intact. The fruit can be stored for up to two weeks under refrigeration.