

The kaffir lime



Citrus hystrix, called the kaffir lime or Mauritius papeda, is a citrus fruit native to tropical Southeast Asia and southern China.

Its fruit and leaves are used in Southeast Asian cuisine and its essential oil is used in perfumery. Its rind and crushed leaves emit an intense citrus fragrance. The etymology of the name "kaffir lime" is uncertain. The Arabic word for non-Muslims is kafir, in South Africa, "kaffir" is an ethnic slur for black African people. A name less well established in English, while in South Africa it is usually simply referred to as Thai lime, therefore we consider its use on the discriminatory site.

C. hystrix is a thorny bush, 2 to 11 metres (6 to 35 ft) tall, with aromatic and distinctively shaped "double" leaves. These hourglass-shaped leaves comprise the leaf blade plus a flattened, leaf-like stalk (or petiole). The fruit is rough and green, and ripens to yellow; it is distinguished by its bumpy exterior and its small size, approximately 4 cm (2 in) wide.

The leaves are the most frequently used part of the plant, fresh, dried, or frozen. The leaves are widely used in Thai. *C. hystrix* is grown worldwide in suitable climates as a garden shrub for home fruit production. It is well suited to container gardens and for large garden pots on patios, terraces, and in conservatories.

Category: Citrus

Families: Rutaceae

Genus: Citrus

Species: *hystrix*

Geographical Area of Origin: South-East Asia

Climatic Zones: Sub-tropical, USDA 10 b (Southern Italy and islands)

Habit: Shrub

Leaves: Evergreen

Colore Foglie: Verde 

Flowering Period: Gennaio / Febbraio / Marzo / Settembre / Ottobre / Novembre / Dicembre

Flower: Corymb



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Colore Fiori: Bianco ☐

Favorite soil: Sub-acid / medium acid / Middle-Dough / Medium soil

Water needs: Medium

Light Exposure: Medium shade / Half shade / Full light / Full sun

Form: Espalier / Inverted cone / Tree / Grown as shrub / bush

Colore Frutti: Verde ☐ Giallo ☐

Parfumed: yes