

Litchi

Varieties

by Christian Didier

Litchi sinensis Sonn.

Sapindaceae

Origin: Southern China (Canton region)

A great number of varieties exist around the world. Only those seen on export markets are mentioned here.

Shahi

(Muzaffarpur)

The fruits are medium-sized (20 to 25 g), bright pink and in clusters. The pulp is sweet. This is the most common variety in Bihar State in India. It is of very good export quality but susceptible to cracking and sun-scorch. The trees are vigorous with steady production (80 to 100 kg per tree).



Kwai mi

(Mauritius, Tai So)

The fruits are medium-sized (22 to 25 g) and bright red in clusters of 12 to 30. Fruit quality is good. This is the most widespread variety in the Indian Ocean. Production is steady with little alternate bearing. The trees are of medium vigour and slender.



Haak Yip

(Black leaf)

The fruits are medium-sized (20 g), dark red and in clusters of 15 to 25. The peel is smooth and hard. The stones are medium to large. The flesh is good to excellent, sweet and aromatic and forms 70 percent of the fruit. The trees are of medium vigour, compact, straight and bear well.



Chakrapad

(Emperor)

A large heart-shaped fruit (32 g). The skin is thin and flexible, dark red with yellow patches. Moderately juicy, the pulp may remain slightly acid. Fairly large stone. The trees are of average vigour with an erect habit, long branches and dense foliage.



Rose scented

The fruits are medium-sized (16 g), globular and heart-shaped. The pulp is very sweet with an aroma of roses, whence its name. The variety is grown mainly in Uttranchal in India.



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