

**FARMER TO FARMER - PRACTICES FOR RESILIENCE SERIES**

# PLANTING ORGANIC PAPAYA

Papaya (***Carica Papaya***) or the tree with the green fruit also called *kenapu* in the Marshall Islands is one of a few agricultural crops that grows in the country's poor atoll soil.

Farmers use a planting technique that produces resilient, fruit bearing trees. Organic farmers in particular fill the pits with high organic content and apply other organic farming techniques like mulching, integrated cropping, composts and organic fertilisers.

## Step 1

Prepare the Pit (two months before planting)

A pit contains high quality organic material with plant growth nutrients that are released when they decay. They also aid root growth.

This allows the pig manure to compost.



## Pit Content

**Pig manure** is rich in nutrients like nitrogen that green plants like papaya need for growth and fruiting. It is low in atoll soils because of the low organic content of the soil. Such manure also offers potassium and phosphorus.

**Compost** Provides nutrients soil needs + increase organic matter, improve soil texture + water storing capacity



## Step 2

Adding Copra Cake

Three weeks later, uncover pit and add copra cake. Mix well. Cover with sack and then soil. Leave until you see grass growing on the surface of the pit. Then you know the pit is ready for planting.



### Step 3

Ready pit for planting  
(two months later)

Weed grass on pit site. Dig a hole in the middle, just enough to fit a papaya seedling. Water hole to moisten soil.



### Step 4

Plant Papaya

Transplant papaya to pit site with soil and roots



Carefully place papaya in pit, making sure you do not harm the roots.



Then add mulch all over the pit base, only lightly covering base near plant. The mulch forms a mountain around the plant to protect it from strong wind. Water well every day for a week.

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