



***Synsepalum dulcificum* (Miracle fruit) – growing instructions**

The Miracle is in your hands!...
 ...so don't let it down.

Miracle Fruit is a very exciting and fun plant; however it came from the Tropics and requires some special care to make it feel happy and perform its miracle for you. Although pretty easy in cultivation for experienced gardeners, Miracle Fruit is a live creature and has its likes and dislikes.

DO-NOT:	DO:
No alkaline soil. If planted in alkaline limestone based soils, the plant may die. This is why most Florida soils are not suitable for the plant; better keep it in a pot.	Use acidic soils: peat-based, special potting mix, or coconut fiber. These plants seem to live for acid, thriving in it, and then converting it! They must have rich, well-drained soils that are acid in pH, with lots of peat moss, and require constant supply of micronutrients.
No oversize containers. Use a pot slightly bigger than the root ball. If the plant arrived in a pot – leave it alone and do not repot until you see new growth.	Once you see the plant recovered from the shipping stress and shows new growth, check if the new roots are coming from the holes on the bottom of the pot: this is the time to repot it. Large plants can be grown in large containers with generous amounts of peat moss for sustained success in fruiting.
No soggy conditions. Do not water if the top layer of soil is wet.	Use only good brand soil mix with good drainage . Touch the soil before watering. Soil must be kept slightly moist, not damp.
No cool temperatures. The plant is very tropical. If you can't provide high temperatures, be careful with watering: wet while cold (below 70-75F) will kill the plant.	Keep the plant in warm tropical environment, between 75 – 85F. Established plants get damaged below low 30'sF, young plants should not be exposed to lower than 45F, non-established plants must be kept between 75 – 85F.
Avoid hot direct sun for hours. The plant may take full sun, but may look unhealthy, especially when young.	Keep the plant in bright shade (filtered light) for best results. Sunny window with partial sun (morning or late afternoon) is the best. If kept outdoors – place it on covered lanai or in 30% shade greenhouse.
No AC cooled rooms. Dry air is bad for the plant.	If you have no choice but keeping the plant in air-conditioned room, keep it away from the outlet, and mist it several times a day to increase air humidity. Compact air humidifier will be even more helpful. Putting a pot on a tray with wet pebbles is another solution to humidify the air. <u>Watering more often is not equal to higher humidity</u>

Synsepalum is not a fast growing plant, which is another benefit for those who would like to grow it in their house or greenhouse. It thrives under warm temperatures, and high humidity. A 10 inch plant can be happy in a one gallon pot. Plant of that size kept in proper conditions will bloom and fruit at least twice a year, probably more frequently.