

**'SUNSET' SOLO PAPAYA**

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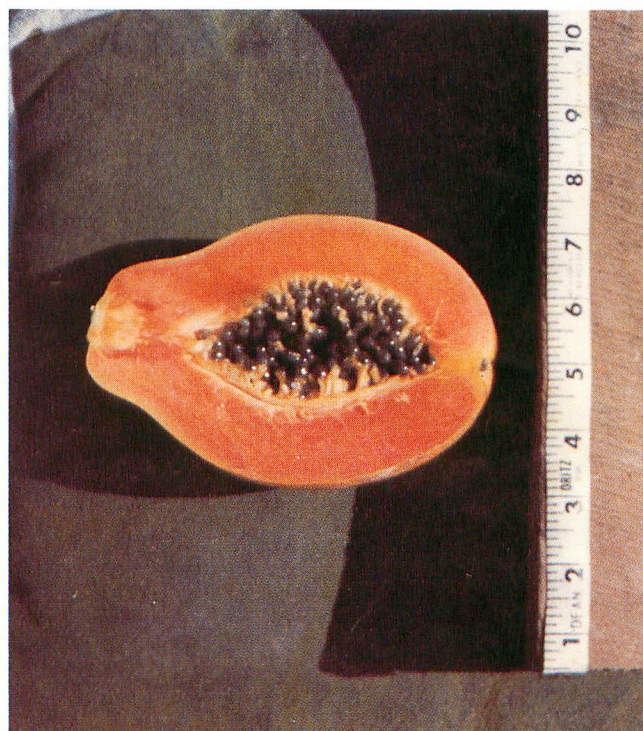


**Fig. 1. 'Sunset' plant.**

'Sunset' is a new hybrid solo papaya selection with uniform, salmon-pink flesh. 'Sunset' most resembles 'Sunrise' solo but with more uniform fruits averaging about 15 percent smaller than those of 'Sunrise'. The yellow external skin color of 'Sunset' is more intense and develops somewhat earlier than that of 'Sunrise'. Ripe 'Sunset' fruits are also firmer than those of 'Sunrise' and have two to four days longer shelf life than 'Sunrise' when both are harvested at a similar stage of maturity.

**Origin**

The cross that produced 'Sunset' was made in 1961 between a 'Line 9' solo strain with red flesh and 'Kariya', a conventional solo strain with yellow flesh. 'Sunset' is a sister line of 'Sunrise' originating from the same cross and was



**Fig. 2. 'Sunset' fruit.**

designated HAES 72-12. Self-pollination and progeny testing for six generations resulted in the new, uniform-breeding 'Sunset' solo papaya.

**Description**

'Sunset' plants are precocious and low bearing, producing the first fruits at about 32 in (80 cm) above ground level (Fig. 1). Leaf petioles tend to be upright with a light purple blush. The first fruits mature about 10 months after transplanting to the field. There is little or no sterility or carpelloidy, although this depends on environmental conditions. Hermaphroditic fruits are pyriform and slightly necked. The skin has a tendency to freckle in warm weather. Fruits are uniform in size, ranging from 14 to 21 oz (400 to 600 g), depending upon location. 'Sunset' fruits are slightly smaller and some-

what firmer than 'Sunrise', and the seed cavity is star shaped.

The flesh of 'Sunset' has a distinctive aroma and flavor. Sweetness, as measured by total soluble solids, ranges from 12 to 17 percent. Flesh thickness averages about 3/4 in (2 cm). The flesh is salmon-pink and smooth textured, without lumps or stringiness (Fig. 2). Fruits picked at color break take about 10 days to reach 70 percent yellow and 15 days to reach 100 percent yellow.

'Sunset' is highly productive, with annual yields of 20 to 40 tons per acre. It has some resistance to anthracnose but is susceptible to papaya ringspot virus, as are all solo papaya lines.

#### **Availability**

Seeds are available from the Department of Horticulture, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822.