

A publication of the Market Information Service (MIS) - Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
"Linking the market and Primary producers"

TAHITIAN LIME



Introduction

Tahitian lime, also known as Persian lime or Bearss lime, has the scientific name is *Citrus x latifolia*. The name "Tahitian" arises from the fact that this type of lime was introduced to California from Tahiti during the period of 1850 to 1880.

Lime has many uses. It is use as a mixer for drinks, a food dressing and also as a garnish due to its seedless flesh and juiciness¹. Tahitian lime also plays a vital role in health, as it is rich in Vitamin C and antioxidant. It offers several health benefits, such as, improving our immunity systems, reducing heart risk factors, preventing of kidney stone, aiding iron absorptions, and promoting healthy skin².

Production

Approximately 130 seedlings of tahitian lime can grow in 1 acre. The spacing between plants is 6meter between rows and 5menters between plants within the rows. It can be planted all year round, especially during Samoa's wet season. The cropping system is monocropping and its mortality rate is approximately 5%. The growth period for the fruit is 10 to 20years and the harvest time is 3 to 4years after planting³.

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¹<https://theneffkitchen.com.au/technique/different-types-lime-use/>

² <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/limes>

³ Farm Management Manual 2022/2023-MAF

Harvesting

Limes should be handpicked from the trees during warm and dry hours on the day of the harvest. Harvesting of the fruit in the morning under cool and wet condition can lead to increase turgor and cellular pressure within the fruit, making it susceptible to damage from the hot water temperature⁴.

Disease/Insect Control.

There are few diseases that can affect the tree and its growth. A Farm Management Manual provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) outlined some diseases and how farmers should manage them. For instance, for a disease called *Citrus scab*, farmers are advised to immediately remove the and burn the entire plant, thoroughly clean the affected area of weeds and use a copper solution (CuSol) spray to prevent diseases. Another disease is called *Black Rot*, farmers are also advised to collect all the affected fruits and dispose of them far from the plant and use the recommended chemical spray which is Copper solution (CuSol)⁵.

The manual also outlines some insect control measures and advises for farmers on how to handle such problems if they arise. For *Fruit piercing moth*, farmers are advised to immediately remove overripe fruits or covered them with a recommended bag or net. For Aphids farmers should remove the affected branches or use insecticide spray to control insects. *Psyllid* farmers are highly recommended to contact the Crops Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for guidance and

⁴Treating Tahitian lime harvested under wet and cold conditions to meet export requirements- Crops Division

⁵ Farm Management Manual 2022/2023-MAF

treatments, and for *P. minor*, the application of recommended chemicals is advised⁶.

Market Information.

New Zealand has been identified by the MAF as a market with high development potential for exporting citrus fruits such as Tahitian lime. As of now, the export of Tahitian lime is on-hold until further notices from the Biosecurity Division of the MAF. In 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries developed a Citrus Export Plan⁷. This export plan describes the agreed activities undertaken to meet the phytosanitary requirements for exporting approved citrus commodities for human consumption from Samoa into New Zealand⁸

Fresh Tahitian limes are sold in both local flea markets and supermarkets for the average price of \$5 to 10tala per packet.



⁶Farm Management Manual 2022/2023-MAF

⁷<https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/samoa/98264>

⁸ Export Plan for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables from Samoa to New Zealand.

Table 1: Average Prices at the Fugalei Market

Commodities (SAT\$/kg)	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Lowest Price for 2023 to date	Highest Price for 2023 to date
Taro	4.75	3.8	3.74	6.2
Banana	1.61	1.46	1.31	2.5
Ta'amu	10.54	4.65	5.04	22.6
Coconut	1.02	0.92	0.80	1.12
Breadfruit	2.31	1.4	1.06	5.98
Yam	9.28	5.96	5.31	7.35
Head Cabbage	12.99	13.47	8.11	17.02
Tomato	25.34	27.41	15.72	31.07
Chinese Cabbage	11.47	11.98	6.85	11.56
Cucumber	7.53	8.45	5.88	8.72
Pumpkin	6.41	6.31	3.91	7.95

Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

Table 2: Foreign Currency per Tala (SAT\$)

March-April 2018	USD\$	NZD\$	AUD\$	YEN\$	FJD\$	EURO
1 Samoan Tala SAT\$=	0.35	0.59	0.54	55.15	0.78	0.32

Source: BSP Exchange Rate

Market Link Newsletter

This newsletter is published bi-monthly and it seeks to assist stakeholders (farmers, consumers, wholesalers, policymakers) make informed market and marketing decisions based on credible, relevant price and supply information. Help us help you by providing constructive feedback on market information issues that will improve the service which will lead to growing a healthy and wealthy Samoa. For more information contact the Policy, Planning and Sector Coordination Division and ask for Fereni Tofilau

Disclaimer

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