

FGCU Food Forest

Plant Database

Carambola (*Averrhoa carambola*)

Quick Facts

Origin: South East Asia
Description: A medium-sized tree growing between 20-35ft
Harvest: Aug-Jan
Flower: All year
Tolerance: Intolerant of salt and drought

General Description: The Carambola, or Starfruit, is highly productive, fruiting abundantly for the majority of the year. It is densely foliated with sets of 5-13 leaflets that are ovate, thin, and smooth. The flowers form in the axils of the leaves and are purple-pink in color. The fruit is elliptical and varies in size from 3 to 8 inches. It has longitudinal ridges that give it a star shape when sliced laterally. The color of the fruit varies from green to white to yellow, and the flesh is juicy, sweet, and tart.



- **Native Origin:** Southeast Asia. Possibly native to Sri Lanka or Malaysia.
- **General History:** The Carambola has been grown in Florida since the 1880's.
- **Distribution:** Worldwide throughout the tropics and subtropics.
- **Season of Harvest:** A mature tree in Florida will bear fruit from July to February, sometimes producing over 500 pounds of fruit. Fruit should be picked when it is at least 3/4 of its full color – any sooner and it will not develop full flavor.
- **Culinary Uses:** Carambola can be eaten raw, in salads, juiced, or as a jelly.

Carambola
Scientific Classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(Unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Oxalidales
Family:	Oxalidaceae
Genus:	<i>Averrhoa</i>
Species:	<i>A. carambola</i>

Sources

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg269>

Boning, Charles. "Florida's Best Fruiting Plants".

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