

Use a well-draining seed starting mix or a mixture of compost, perlite, and vermiculite to provide good moisture retention and aeration for the seeds.

6.2 Other Propagation Methods

Yellow plums can also be propagated through other methods, including:

Cloning from Cuttings: Take hardwood cuttings during the dormant season. Make clean, angled cuts below a node and remove the lower leaves. Dip the cut ends in a rooting hormone and plant them in a well-draining rooting medium. Maintain high humidity and warmth until roots develop. Once rooted, transplant the cuttings into suitable pots or directly into the ground.

7 Seedling Care

7.1 Ideal Growing Conditions

Light: Yellow plum seedlings thrive in full sunlight. Place them in a location where they receive at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight each day. Adequate sunlight promotes healthy growth and fruit production.

Temperature: Maintain a temperature range of 20-25°C (68-77°F) during the seedling stage. Avoid extreme temperature fluctuations. Protect the seedlings from frost during cooler months or provide appropriate shelter if necessary.

Humidity: Moderate humidity levels are generally suitable for yellow plum seedlings. Aim for a relative humidity range of 40-60%. If the air becomes too dry, you can increase humidity by using a humidifier or placing a tray of water near the seedlings.

7.2 Watering and Fertilizer Recommendations

Watering: Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Check the soil moisture regularly by inserting your finger into the top inch of the soil. If it feels dry at that depth, it's time to water. Water the seedlings thoroughly, ensuring the water penetrates the root zone. Adjust watering frequency based on weather conditions and the moisture retention properties of your soil.

Fertilizer: Begin fertilizing the yellow plum seedlings when they develop their first set of

true leaves. Use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer with a ratio such as 10-10-10 or 14-14-14. Dilute the fertilizer according to the package instructions and apply it every 2-4 weeks during the growing season. Gradually increase the strength of the fertilizer as the seedlings grow. Monitor the seedlings' response to fertilizer and adjust the feeding regimen accordingly. After a couple weeks of balanced fertilizer also include Calcium-Magnesium hydroponic fertilizer, and chelated micronutrient fertilizer in your fertilizer mix, before planting out can drought stress them and give them some PK fertilizer to stimulate root growth.

7.3 Transplanting Guidelines

Timing: Transplant yellow plum seedlings outdoors when they have developed a strong root system and are large enough to handle the transplanting process. This typically occurs when the seedlings are 6-8 weeks old and have multiple sets of true leaves. Choose a time during the growing season when the soil is warm and there is no risk of frost.

Transplanting Process: Gently remove the seedlings from their pots or containers, being careful not to disturb the delicate roots. Dig a hole in the planting area that is slightly larger and deeper than the root ball of the seedling. Place the seedling in the hole, making sure it is planted at the same depth it was in the container. Backfill the hole with soil, firming it gently around the seedling to ensure good soil-to-root contact. Water thoroughly after transplanting to help settle the soil.

8 Conclusion

In conclusion, growing yellow plums from seedlings can be a rewarding experience, allowing you to cultivate these beautiful and fruitful trees in your own garden or orchard. By following the planting, care, and propagation guidelines provided, you can establish healthy and thriving yellow plum trees. Enjoy the process of nurturing your yellow plum seedlings as they mature and bear the delectable fruits they are known for. Whether you are savoring the sweet, juicy plums straight from the tree or exploring their culinary and medicinal uses, yellow plums offer a delightful addition to your homegrown produce. Embrace the journey of growing and caring for these remarkable trees, and may your harvests be abundant and flavorful for years to come.

Lyis: Yellow Plums (*Prunus salicina*)

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2 Introduction to Yellow Plums (*Prunus salicina*)

2.1 Description of the Plant

Yellow plums (*Prunus salicina*) are a specific variety of plum within the *Prunus salicina* species. These deciduous fruit trees hardy to zone 5 that start to bear fruit within 3-5 years and are known for their vibrant yellow-colored fruits. They typically grow to medium size, reaching heights of around 4-6 meters. The trees feature beautiful white or pink blossoms in spring, followed by the development of medium-sized yellow fruits in summer. The fruits have smooth skin and juicy, sweet flesh, making them a delightful addition to a variety of culinary creations.

2.2 Historical and Cultural Context

Yellow plums, including *Prunus salicina* varieties, have a rich history of cultivation and consumption in East Asia, particularly in China and Japan. Plum cultivation has been practiced for thousands of years, and plums hold cultural significance in these regions. They are often associated with celebrations, festivals, and traditional cuisines.

2.3 Overview of Edible, Medicinal, or Useful Properties

Yellow plums, like other plum varieties, are primarily cultivated for their delicious and nutritious fruits. The sweet and juicy flesh of yellow plums makes them a popular choice for fresh eating and culinary uses. They can be used in a wide range of preparations, including jams, jellies, pies, preserves, and desserts. Yellow plums are a good source of vitamins, minerals, di-

etary fiber, and antioxidants, contributing to a healthy and well-rounded diet.

While yellow plums are mainly valued for their edible properties, plums in general have been used in traditional medicine for their potential health benefits. They are believed to possess digestive properties, promote cardiovascular health, and provide antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects. Additionally, plums contain certain vitamins and minerals that contribute to overall well-being.

3 Planting Outdoors and Yellow Plum (*Prunus salicina*) Care

3.1 Planting Outdoors

When and Where to Plant: Plant live yellow plum seedlings in pots during the growing season, ensuring there is enough time for them to establish roots before winter. Choose a location that receives full sunlight for optimal growth and fruit production.

Soil Requirements: Yellow plum trees can adapt to a range of soil types, including sandy loam and clay loam. However, they prefer well-drained soil with a pH between 6.0 and 7.0. Prepare the soil by removing any weeds or grass and incorporating organic matter to improve soil fertility and structure.

Spacing and Depth Recommendations (Metric Measurements): Plant yellow plum seedlings with a spacing of approximately 4-6 meters between trees to allow for proper growth and airflow. When transplanting seedlings from 15cm deep fabric pots, dig a hole slightly larger than the pot size (e.g., around 20cm wide and deep) and place the entire pot with the seedling into the hole. Ensure the soil level is the same as the top of the pot. The fabric will naturally degrade, allowing the roots to grow into the surrounding soil.

Transplanting: For yellow plum seedlings in 15cm deep fabric pots, transplant them by placing the entire pot with the seedling into the planting hole. Backfill the hole with soil, ensuring it is at the same level as the top of the pot. The fabric will break down over time, allowing the roots to establish in the surrounding soil.

Mulching to Suppress Weeds: Apply a layer of organic mulch, such as woodchips or straw, around the base of the tree to suppress weed growth. You can also consider planting spring bulbs around the tree to further suppress grass and add beauty to the area.

Protection from Wildlife: To protect yellow plum trees from browsing animals, consider us-

ing fencing or other physical barriers around the planting area. Additionally, companion planting with deterrent plants like thistles around the perimeter can help discourage wildlife.

3.2 Ongoing Plant Care

Watering: Yellow plum trees require regular watering, especially during the first growing season. Water deeply and thoroughly, ensuring the soil is evenly moist but not waterlogged. Check the soil moisture by inserting your finger into the soil to a depth of about 5cm. If it feels dry at that depth, it's time to water. Depending on weather conditions, this may require watering every 7-10 days.

Fertilizing Schedules: To support healthy growth and fruit production, fertilize yellow plum trees in early spring, mid-summer, and late fall. Use a balanced fruit tree fertilizer and follow the package instructions for the appropriate application rates. Adjust the fertilizer amounts as the tree matures and consider soil testing to determine nutrient needs. It may take approximately 3-5 years for yellow plum trees to reach fruit-bearing maturity.

Pruning and Training: Yellow plum trees generally require minimal pruning during the early years. Remove any dead, damaged, or crossing branches to maintain a healthy structure. As the trees grow, consider shaping the canopy by selectively pruning to maintain an open structure and promote airflow. Pruning is typically done during late winter or early spring before new growth emerges.

Common Pests and Diseases: Monitor yellow plum trees for common pests such as aphids, plum curculio, or plum moth. Implement integrated pest management practices, including regular inspection, handpicking of pests, and the use of organic pest control methods when necessary. Planting wildflowers around the area can attract beneficial insects that help control pests naturally. Watch for signs of diseases such as plum leaf curl, brown rot, or bacterial canker. Proper sanitation, good air circulation, and prompt treatment are essential for disease prevention and control.

By following these guidelines, you can provide the necessary care for your yellow plum trees, ensuring their health, growth, and eventual fruit production. Enjoy the journey of nurturing these trees and anticipate the satisfaction of harvesting your homegrown yellow plums in the years to come.

4 Harvesting and Storage

Signs of Maturity for Harvest: Yellow plum trees generally begin to bear fruit around 3-5 years of age, although this can vary depending on the specific cultivar and growing conditions. Yellow plums are typically ready for harvest when they have reached their full color and are slightly soft to the touch. The ideal time to harvest is when the plums easily detach from the tree with a gentle twist or tug. It is important to note that plums can become overripe if left on the tree for too long, so regular monitoring is necessary.

How to Harvest: When harvesting yellow plums, it is best to use your hands or specialized tools such as fruit pickers. Gently twist or rotate each fruit to detach it from the tree. Fruit pickers with long handles can be helpful for reaching higher branches. Take care to handle the plums gently to avoid bruising or damaging them.

4.1 Post-harvest Storage and Usage Guidelines

Fresh Usage: Enjoy freshly harvested yellow plums by consuming them immediately. They can be eaten as a healthy snack, added to fruit salads, or used in various culinary preparations.

Refrigeration: Place ripe yellow plums in a perforated plastic bag or an open container in the refrigerator. This helps prolong their freshness and can extend their shelf life for up to a week.

Freezing: To freeze yellow plums, wash and pit them before cutting them into desired sizes. Lay the plum pieces on a baking sheet in a single layer and place them in the freezer until firm. Transfer the frozen plums to airtight containers or freezer bags, and label them with the date. Frozen plums can be stored for up to a year and used in smoothies, jams, sauces, or baked goods.

Canning: Preserve yellow plums through canning to enjoy them year-round. Follow proper canning procedures and recipes to ensure safety and long-term storage. Canned plums can be used in pies, desserts, or enjoyed on their own.

Dehydrating: Dehydrating yellow plums can result in delicious dried plums, also known as prunes. Slice the plums into thin pieces and place them on a dehydrator tray or use an oven on low heat. Dry the plums until they reach a leathery or chewy consistency. Store the dried plums in airtight containers in a cool, dry place. They make for a nutritious and convenient snack or can be used in baking and cooking.

5 Recipes and Usage Ideas

5.1 Culinary Uses

- Yellow plum jam or preserves
- Fresh yellow plum salsa or chutney
- Grilled yellow plum halves served with yogurt or ice cream
- Yellow plum tart or pie
- Yellow plum-infused vinegar for dressings and marinades

5.2 Medicinal and Useful Preparations

- Yellow plum herbal tea for digestive support or relaxation
- Yellow plum face mask or skin toner for nourishment and hydration
- Yellow plum-infused oil for homemade beauty products
- Yellow plum syrup for soothing coughs or sore throats

Explore these ideas and feel free to experiment with yellow plums in various culinary, medicinal, and useful preparations. Enjoy the unique flavors and benefits that these versatile fruits have to offer.

6 Propagation

6.1 Germination Details

Stratification: Yellow plum seeds often require stratification to break dormancy. Cold stratification involves subjecting the seeds to cold temperatures for a specific duration. For yellow plum seeds, this is typically 60-90 days. You can achieve stratification by placing the seeds in a sealed plastic bag with a moistened medium, such as damp sand or vermiculite, and storing them in the refrigerator. Check the moisture levels periodically to prevent drying out or excessive moisture.

Temperature: Yellow plum seeds germinate best at temperatures between 20-25°C (68-77°F). Maintain a consistent warm environment for optimal germination. You can use a heat mat or place the seeds in a warm location, such as near a heat source.

Best Pots and Potting Soil for Seed Starting: Choose pots or containers with a minimum depth of 10cm or greater to accommodate the developing root system. Biodegradable or reusable seedling trays, peat pots, or individual pots with drainage holes are suitable options.