

# Pineapple #5



**Botanical name:** *Ananas comosus*

**Common name:** Fainaā

**Tongan name:** Fainaā

**Other names:**

## DESCRIPTION & USES

Scientific name: *Ananas comosus*, Tonga name : *Fainaā*

Pineapple is grown in Tonga for subsistence needs for the domestic market and for export. They are also used by a factory in Nuku'alofa to make juice. The main variety grown is the Ripley Queen, which produces very sweet fruits. Large seasonal supplies of pineapples can saturate the domestic market, resulting in a marked fall in the domestic price.



KINGDOM OF TONGA



# Pineapple

## PRODUCTION NOTES

**Climate:** Pineapples have a very shallow, limited root system, and therefore require large amounts of moisture. Optimum annual rainfall is 1500-2000 mm, while a temperature of 16-21°C is favoured.

**Soil:** Pineapples require well-drained, acid soils and grow best on sloping land. Planting on the contour (across the slope) is recommended if the slope is steep. The land should be cultivated to a deep, fine, tilth, and the soil should be free of nematodes.



**Propagation:** Planting material is suckers, slips and crowns. These are removed after fruiting and allowed to dry in the shade for one week or more before planting to prevent rotting.

**Planting time:** If pineapples are planted early in the year they will produce fruits at the end of that year. However, in the fruiting season there is not much planting material available. Therefore, the best time to plant is after the harvesting season, when there are plenty of shoots available. At this time it is the rainy season.

**Planting density:** Plant spacing can be as follows: double rows 80cm apart, with 40cm between plants in the rows, and the double rows 120cm apart from centre to centre. This gives a planting density of 10,000 plants per acre but closer spacing can be used.

**Weeding:** Weed control is labour intensive and difficult because of the sharp spines of the pineapple. Manual weeding can be replaced by the application of herbicides, reducing labour inputs substantially.

**Yield:** The first harvest occurs 12 to 14 months after planting, although less than half the plants will fruit at this time. The highest yield will be obtained in the third year and production will decline thereafter.

**Fruiting:** Hormone sprays such as Pheromone applied to the crown of the plant at 8 to 12 months after planting can influence flowering. Higher prices can be received by producing fruit out of season.

**Production period:** If properly maintained, the plants can be harvested for 5 or more years.

### Marketing notes

Pineapples are mainly sold in the local market. Talamahu Market report showed in 2019-2025, an average supply of 164.92 tonnes of pineapples per year was sold at Talamahu market with an average price of T\$6.14/kg.

For more information

Address: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests (MAFF)