

Fruits in Melaka Heritage Garden

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The study summarized that fruit trees found in the planting composition of traditional Malay gardens in Melaka are filled with meaning and symbolism while meeting the household needs through a variety of functions over the years. Bright-coloured fruit trees in the front yard represent the “house pride element” of the resident, also as landmarks for the residence itself. Plant allocation in the compound area, may consist of the meaning or symbolism of an important event from the past. Coconut palm (*C. nucifera*) has been used to symbolise the birth of a family member. Pinang palm (*Areca catechu*) is famous as an indication of the first day of house construction. The large trunk feature in trees, such as the Durian (*Durio zibethinus*), significantly help to demarcate land.



The Malays love to be associated with a variety of lovely home cooked meals and that is an explanation on the importance of domestic raw food supplies. Most of the edible gardens in the Malays' compounds are allocated at the backyard portion comprising of small to medium scale plants and serve for medicinal purposes as well.

Small scale orchard is another identity that can be linked to the Malay's heritage garden. It was also discovered that fruit trees were used as a boundary statement between lands while tall, steady plants were chosen for the marking of territories. Over-ripened fruit from the trees in the garden's compound serves as food supply for feeding the animals.



