

# Cacao



Scientific Name: *Theobroma cacao*

Origin: Exotic, Native to South America



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The first documented cacao tree in Hawai'i was in the 1830s. Cocoa beans (and chocolate) come from cacao trees! The tree is sensitive, requiring sufficient warmth, water and proper exposure to sunlight to grow well. Cocoa beans grow in pods on the tree trunks. Mature cacao pods are usually orange colored and take about 5 months to fully ripen on the tree. Young cacao plants need protection from wind, sun, and Chinese rose beetles. The cacao seeds require fermentation and roasting to produce chocolate. Some enjoy eating the raw pulp and beans as an easier way to eat the fruit.

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Partial shade



Moderate



Well Drained



Moderate



White Flower



Height: 10' - 30'

Width: 10' - 25'



Edible



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