A Guide to Fruit Tree Trail at Sengkang Riverside Park

This walking trail at Sengkang Riverside Park provides you the opportunity to take a closer look at 16 fruit trees, some of which bear fruits that can’t be found in supermarkets!

The fruit trees in this park attract fruit-loving bees, butterflies and birds that in turn help in the pollination of plants and regeneration for other living things.

Part of this trail also runs along the parameters of a constructed wetland with artificial marshes, where you can easily spot birds like the Little Tern and Purple Heron circling above the wetland in search of prey. Dragonflies and damselflies flying and resting on the leaves of the aquatic plants are a common sight too. So keep your eyes open for them!

Help Conserve Our Fruit Trees

Kindly refrain from plucking the fruits on your own as this could damage the tree bark. When the tree bark is torn, there is a higher risk of the tree being invaded by viruses.

Refrain from plucking the flowers of the trees too. These flowers add to the aesthetics of the park. More importantly, they form part of the plant cycle; without flowers, there will be no fruits.

If you happen to see someone plucking fruits or flowers in this park, do help us to educate him. Together we can work towards maintaining a beautiful park for everyone to rest and play in.
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How to get to Sengkang Riverside Park

By MRT:
Alight at SengKang West Loop LRT, Farmway Station and walk for 5 to 10 minutes towards Sungei Punggol.

By Car:
Park your car at the carpark (located next to the park) along Anchorvale Road.

1. Mangosteen Tree
2. Ordeal Tree
3. Custard Apple
4. Pomelo
5. Lime
6. Weeping Tea Tree
7. Island Lychee
8. Mango
9. Pond Apple Tree
10. Asam Tree
11. Java Olive Tree
12. Elephant Apple
13. Fish Killer Tree
14. Starfruit
15. Pig's Mango
16. Wine Palm
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1. **Mangosteen tree** (*Garcinia mangostana*)
This tree has a pyramidal crown and ovate (oval), oblong-shaped leaves. Its fruit is renowned for having huge amounts of antioxidants.

*Did You Know?* The wood of the mangosteen tree is often used in carpentry and construction work as it is highly durable.

2. **Ordeal tree** (*Erythrophleum guineense*)
This tree has a large crown, dense foliage, and smooth, dark green leaflets.

*Did You Know?* The tree obtains its name from the “trials by ordeal” once conducted by African tribes. The accused would be given poisonous red sap from the tree bark to drink. If he died, he would be deemed guilty; if he lived, he is innocent. The fruits from this tree are also poisonous.

3. **Custard apple** (*Annona squamosa*)
This is a small tree or shrub with broad, open crown and irregular branches. Its leaves are thin and pale green on both sides of the surface.

The custard apple, rich in antioxidants and vitamins A and C, is said to have health benefits for the skin, hair and eyes.

*Did You Know?* The custard apple apparently benefits people suffering from rheumatism and arthritis too.

4. **Pomelo** (*Citrus grandis*)
The Pomelo tree, when mature, becomes a large thorny tree with an irregular crown. Its dark green leaves contain tiny oil glands that make the leaves shiny.

The fruit is usually pale green to yellow when ripe, with white (or more rarely, pink or red) flesh and very thick pudgy rind.

*Did You Know?* The Pomelo fruit is the largest fruit in the citrus family.

5. **Lime** (*Citrus microcarpa*)
The lime is a shrub with an irregular crown and is a member of the citrus family. Generally, limes are smaller and sweeter compared to lemons.

This fruit is known to reduce risks of cancer, stroke and heart disease. Rich in vitamin C, antioxidants, and dietary fibre, it aids in digestion and weight loss.

*Did You Know?* Lime is also used for “removing” evil spirits in India!
Asam Tree (*Tamarindus indica*)
This tree has drooping branches, a large umbrella-shaped crown of light green foliage, and small and oblong-shaped leaflets.

Did You Know? The fruit of this tree, known as tamarind or asam, can improve digestion and soothe sore throats when consumed.

Mango (*Mangifera indica*)
This tree has a dense, rounded compact crown and makes a handsome ornament in parks and gardens. Leaves are narrow and elongated, and new foliage is dark coppery-red.

In countries like Java, the very young leaves of this tree are eaten with rice. More commonly consumed, though, is the sweet fruit.

Did You Know? Mangoes are high in vitamins, potassium, fibre and antioxidants.

Weeping Tea Tree (*Leptospermum brachyandrum*)
This is an attractive small tree with graceful willowy branches. Its aromatic leaves are narrow in length. Its bark peels off in small strips, exposing the new shiny bark below.

Did You Know? This tree belongs to the family of Tea Trees that derive their name from Australia’s colonial settlers who boiled the leaves as a substitute for tea.

Island Lychee (*Pometia pinnata*)
This is a tall tree with a round or irregular crown. It has large compound leaves with leathery asymmetrical leaflets. The timber can be used for veneers and can also be used to produce charcoal.

Did You Know? Its fruit is a fleshy edible capsule that tastes like rambutan.

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Pond Apple Tree (*Annona glabra*)
The pond apple tree often grows in clumps and has an irregular-shaped crown. Its leaves have narrow tips at the end. This tree can adapt well in swampy areas and is tolerant to salt water. The fruit of this tree can be made into jam.

Did You Know? Recently, studies show that the seed extract contains anti-cancer compounds.

Java Olive Tree (*Sterculia foetida*)
This large tree with a conical and dense crown has compound leaves and long leaf stalks. Young leaves are pinkish in colour.

Did You Know? The seeds of the tree are edible and taste like green peanuts. They are reputed to have a purgative effect though.
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**Did You Know?** The juice of the fruit can be used to clean and polish metal, as it dissolves tarnish and rust.

**Elephant Apple** (*Dillenia indica*)
The Elephant Apple tree is of small to medium size and has a spreading crown. The large leaves are shiny dark green on the surface above and light green below.

**Did You Know?** The fruit of this tree is very bulky in size, with a juicy pulp that is rich with saponins (a vital ingredient in soap making). This fruit is aromatic and can be cooked or pickled.

**Fish Killer Tree** (*Barringtonia racemosa*)
This is a medium-sized tree with a round crown. Its leaves are “alternate” and carried in clusters at the ends of branches. The fruit of this tree is edible.

**Did You Know?** The fruit can be pounded and thrown into streams to stun fish to make it easier for people to catch.

**Starfruit** (*Averrhoa carambola*)
This starfruit tree has drooping branches and a broad, rounded crown. The upper surface of the leaf is smooth while its underside has fine hairs.

The starfruit obtains its name from the star shape when cut in cross-section. This fruit is rich in antioxidants, vitamin C and fibre, and is also low in calories – good news for those on a diet!

We hope you have enjoyed your walk. To get up close and personal with more trees, embark on other Tree Appreciation walking trails like the Heritage Trees Trail at Changi.