



Cultural Requirements for Coffee (Arabica)

Coffee was brought to Kona from Brazil in the 1800's. At one point in history, coffee was grown all over the Big Island. Today Hawaii Island is most well-known for its exclusively rich and flavorful 100% Kona coffee. There are hundreds of coffee farms in Kona and it's the best place to see an active coffee operation. The high elevation & volcanic soil gives the rich aroma and flavor to the Kona coffee beans that makes it so highly valued.



Culture: Coffee plants can be great houseplants. They like bright but indirect light. This means that they can be placed near a window or on the patio but not where the sun will shine directly onto the plant. They will do well in potting soil that contains a combination of cinder, rocks and/or coarse sand. These plants cannot withstand below freezing temperatures. Ideal growing temperatures would be between 60-80°F.

Watering: The coffee plant requires consistent watering. Watering should be as often as possible to keep the soil moist but not damp. Be sure your plant has good drainage as the coffee does NOT like "soggy conditions". Humidity is important as well. If you live in a dry area, create a humidity tray by setting your plant on a water-filled tray of pebbles. Water less in the winter and more in the summer.

Fertilizing: Routinely fertilize your coffee plant with a balanced fertilizer once every 2-3 months in the spring and summer while in its growing stage. It's possible for an indoor coffee plant to grow to 6 feet tall. You will need to be sure to make enough space for growth or prune it in early spring.

Harvest: When the coffee plant is grown under ideal conditions, it will eventually flower when it matures. It can take 3-5 years to mature. Blooming occurs in February-March. Small white flowers will bloom and through natural or hand pollination, green berries will form around April. The berries will begin to ripen and turn red resembling cherries. Picking of the ripe "cherries" is usually done between August-January.

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