Sunburn on Mango

Recognize the problem
In dry areas, trees can suffer sunburn due to exposure to the sun leading to the fruits becoming stressed. Sunburn can lead to internal damage because the mango flesh is vulnerable. It can be severe and cause economic loss. It may also be due to excess pruning or death of leaves as a result of diseases or insects that defoliate the plant.

Background
There are varieties of mangoes that offer good foliage cover and are less susceptible to diseases or insects that defoliate. If too many leaves are pruned from the tree, then the fruits are less well shaded and hence more sunlight can get to the fruit.

Management
Non-chemical control
• Grow cultivars that offer good foliage cover.
• Control foliar diseases and leaf-removing insect pests.
• Planting trees in an east-west direction makes the plant less affected; this avoids direct sun rays especially in the afternoon.
• Careful pruning should be done not to over-expose the fruits to extremes of the sun.
• Do not leave harvested fruit in the sun.