

Guava



Psidium guajava

- **Use:** Guava's can be eaten fresh but are often used to flavor drinks, desserts, sauces, preserves, and many other food products.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Grow well in full sun, except in hot regions, where partial shade is beneficial. Generally, guava's are fairly adaptable and will flourish with little care. Flowers will self-pollinate and fruit develops in a few months. There may be multiple fruiting and flowering seasons throughout the year, depending on local climate conditions. Shallow rooted and prefer lots of moisture throughout the year (except if cold), although they will withstand periods of drought, as well as dry seasonal changes. Keep the soil especially moist during flower and fruit set. They will tolerate poor soils, but grows much better when fertilized monthly, or when grown in soil that is high in organic material.
- **Growth:** It will be approximately 5-10' tall.
- **Hardiness: Zone** 9-11; Tropical Bring indoors and protect from temperatures below 30F, which can cause defoliation. Harder freezes will kill the plant. In cool winter areas, guava's may partially defoliate, but should begin new growth flushes in spring and summer.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Do not prune mature trees heavily because this can reduce the crop.
- **Flower/ Fruit:** The fruit, exuding a strong, sweet, musky odor when ripe, may be round, ovoid, or pear-shaped, 2 to 4 in (5-10 cm) long, with 4 or 5 protruding floral remnants (sepals) at the apex; and thin, light-yellow skin, frequently blushed with pink. Next to the skin is a layer of somewhat granular flesh, 1/8 to 1/2 in (3-12.5 mm) thick, white, yellowish, light- or dark-pink, or near-red, juicy, acid, subacid, or sweet and flavorful. The central pulp, concolorous or slightly darker in tone, is juicy and normally filled with very hard, yellowish seeds, 1/8 in (3 min) long. Self-fruitful.

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