PLANT FACT SHEET

Passiflora quadrangularis L.

GENUS *Passiflora* **FAMILY** Passifloraceae

COMMON NAMES Granadilla

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Vegetable, Root

Sometimes unripe fruit is boiled as a vegetable. It can be used in soups. It can be cut in pieces and cooked in butter with pepper and nutmeg.
Otherwise the fruit is eaten ripe. It can be used for juice, fruit salad, pies, jellies, cold drinks sauces and wines.
Sometimes the swollen root is cooked and eaten like a yam.
CAUTION The leaves are poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A long creeping vine with square stems. It has fleshy tuberous roots. The vine can be from 5-15 m long. The vine has four wings. The tendrils are pale green and coiled in a spiral. The tendrils are not branched and can be 30 cm long. The leaf stalk is 3 sided and 5-8 cm long. The leafy structures (stipules) at the base of the leaf are sword shaped and 2-5 cm long by 1-2.5 cm wide. The leaves are also large (10-25 cm long and 8-17 cm wide) and green or purple. The flowers occur singly in the axils of the leaves and can be 10-12 cm across. Flowers are white and purple and have red dots on them. The fruit is greenish yellow 12-30 cm long by 10-18 cm wide and with black seeds amongst purple flesh. The aril or layer around the seed is white and edible. The seeds are 1 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It mainly occurs in the tropical lowlands but grows up to about 1000 m. It suits hot humid lowland areas in the tropics. Fruiting is often best between 200-500 m altitude. They can stand cool temperatures when mature. At 21-26°C seed germinate in 1-2 weeks but at lower temperatures seed can take 10 weeks. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are normally grown from cuttings but they can be grown from seed. Cuttings 25- 30 cm long from well matured stems should be used. A spacing of 2-3 m between plants is suitable. It needs a trellis to grow over. It often pays to hand pollinate. Seed germinate in 2-4 weeks. Seedlings can be planted in the field within 4 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The vine is fast growing. A vine lasts for 5-6 years. Flowers are produced 9 months from planting. Fruit are ready to harvest 60-80 days from flowering. A vine can produce 16-50 fruit in a season.

NOTES

There are about 400 Passiflora species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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