PLANT FACT SHEET

Psidium cattleyanum Sabine

GENUS *Psidium* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Cherry guava

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers

Fruit are eaten raw or used in jams and jellies.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows 3-6 m high. The young shoots are rounded. They can be hairy or smooth. The leaf stalk is 4-15 mm long. Leaves are dark green and shiny above and 4-6 cm x 2-3 cm. The edges of the leaves curl backwards. The leaves are wedge shaped at the base. There are several glands under the leaf. Flowers are white and singly in the axils of leaves. The flower stalk is 3-7 mm long. It has small round red or purplish fruit. The flesh is white. There are several hard seeds inside. The seeds are 3 mm long by 2.5 mm wide. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to Brazil. It does quite well in highland areas in the tropics. It grows from sea level to 1,900 m. It is more frost resistant than common guava. It can be grown on a range of soils. It is fairly drought resistant. It suits hardiness zones 8-12. In Hobart Botanical gardens. Melbourne Botanical gardens. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by seed, suckers or cuttings. It can also be grown by layering. Pruning helps fruit production. It can be pruned to form a hedge. The ripe fruit are harvested and the seed removed and washed in running water then dried in the shade. Seed will remain viable for 4 months. Fresh seed should be planted and they germinate in 20-40 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly. Fruit are produced after 2 years. Fruit production is seasonal. There are probably two crops per year. Fruit matures in 60-90 days.

NOTES

It can become a weed in some places eg Hawaii. There are about 150 Psidium species. It can be invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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