PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Eugenia luschnathiana* Berg ex Hook. & Jackson

**GENUS** *Eugenia* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Pitomba

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are eaten raw. They can be used for jams and jellies.
The seeds are roasted and eaten.

## DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows up to 9 m tall and spreading about 5 m wide. The bark is mottled brown. It has glossy leaves. They are dark green above and pale green underneath. It is evergreen. The fruit are yellow and about 2.5 cm long. They contain 1 to 4 seeds. They have a rose smell.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to Brazil. It can grow in subtropical climates but produces a slower growing smaller tree. It can grow on various types of soils. It cannot tolerate alkaline soils. It does best in deep, humid acid soils. It can be grafted onto Eugenia uniflora which can tolerate alkaline soils. It cannot tolerate waterlogging. It cannot tolerate drought especially at flowering and fruiting. It suits hardiness zones 9-12.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

It is commonly grown from seed. It can be grafted using veneer grafts. Seeds are collected from ripe fruit and the pulp removed. Seeds are planted fresh. They are best in part shade. Seedlings emerge in 40-50 days.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fairly slow growing. Grafted trees take 3-4 years before producing fruit while seedling trees take 6-9 years to fruiting. Fruit mature after 4-6 weeks from flowering.

## NOTES

There are about 550 Eugenia species. They are mostly in tropical and subtropical South America.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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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