PLANT FACT SHEET

Passiflora mollissima (Kunth.) L. H. Bailey

GENUS *Passiflora* **FAMILY** Passifloraceae

COMMON NAMES Banana passionfruit

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is eaten when ripe.
It is also used for drinks, ice creams, fruit salads, jellies, pies, puddings, sauces, and made into a liqueur.
The juice is fermented into wine.

DESCRIPTION

A vigorous vine. It has a leaf with 3 lobes. The vine has tendrils by which it attaches to other plants. The flowers are pink and about 7.5 cm across. The fruit is long and yellow, 5-12 cm long x 3-4 cm diameter. It contains several hard black seeds.

HABITAT

It continuously wet areas in temperate or high altitude tropical regions the plant can spread rapidly climbing trees for support. It is suited to colder highland conditions in the tropics. It grows wild over 2500 m altitude in Papua New Guinea. Plants will fruit between 1600 and 2800 m altitude in the tropics. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. It is sensitive to frost.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seeds can be sown in a nursery and then transplanted. Almost always grown from seeds, but it can be propagated by cuttings. Bottom heating the seeds at 20-26°C can result in germination at 1-2 weeks, at lower temperatures seeds can take up to 10 weeks to germinate. Plants need a framework to climb over.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Up to 300 fruit can be produced from a well established vine.

NOTES

There are about 400 Passiflora species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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