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Posted by **Cath Manuel** on Sunday, 29 April 2012 in **Plant Profiles**

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Grumichama: A Tropical Cherry Tree

Recently I was given a bowl of delicious, sweet little treats from a friend whose neighbour is growing them, and I think I ate nearly the whole bowl ... I had taste little fruit before and wondered "Why haven't I planted any of these trees already

The beautiful tree is a Grumichama or Brazilian Cherry and its botanical name is Eugenia dombeyi.

This spectacular, evergreen perennial tree grows 3 to 5m in height, has about 10m spread and grows best in a sub-tropical to tropical environment. It's considered an ornamental tree as well as edible as it produces an abundance of small cherry-like fruit during spring and summer after the flush of new growth. Being closely related to Syzygium (Lilly Pilly species) the new growth has a pinkish colouring and also has

The Grumichama can be grown to form a hedge, used as a wind break or to screen an attractive tree originates in South America and can be grown in part-shade to full sun (no lime added to soil before planting) and will tolerate periods of wet conditions but requires watering regularly once the fruit appears to allow for fruit to set.



When planting the tree, allow sufficient space around the root ball and include good drainage. Soak the potted plant in a bucket of water to reduce transplanting shock.

Cover with a mix of rotted manures and bone or chooks pellets to encourage growth.

Watering in well with a liquid fertiliser. Give a good dose of nutrients to help establish and retain moisture and nutrients.

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