

Grumichama: A Tropical Cherry Tree

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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 tasted this 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 a 2m 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 fruits during spring and summer after the flush of new growth. Being closely related to *Syzigium* (Lilly Pilly species) the new growth has a pinkish colouring and also has lovely white flowers.

The Grumichama can be grown to form a hedge, used as a wind break or to screen out unattractive views or neighbours. This attractive tree originates in South America and can be grown in part-shade to full sun. It likes a rich, friable, slightly acidic soil (so no lime added to soil before planting) and will tolerate periods of wet conditions. It will also tolerate some dry conditions, but requires watering regularly once the fruit appears to allow for fruit to set.



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