

Feijoa sellowiana: Feijoa¹

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Introduction

Feijoa sellowiana, or Pineapple Guava, is a gray-green evergreen shrub or tree (depending on pruning) which produces small, tasty fruit in late summer and early fall. The plants can be pruned to form a hedge or a small tree and will withstand several degrees below freezing. It is native to South America. The plant is not used nor is it commonly available in the eastern U.S.

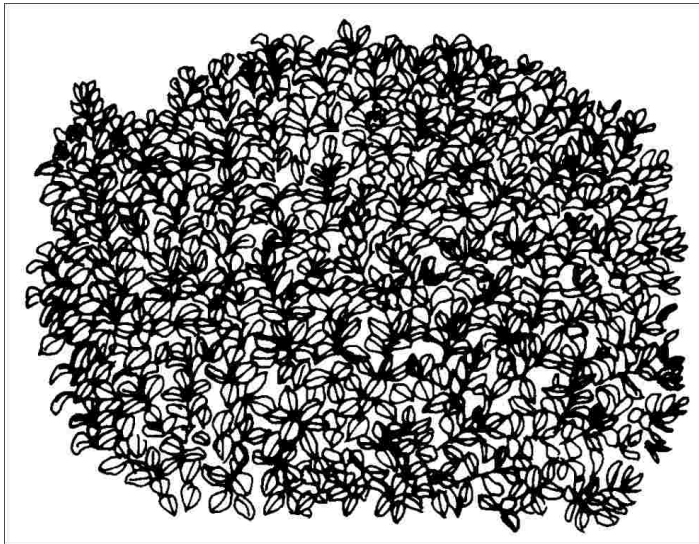


Figure 1. Young *Feijoa sellowiana*: Feijoa

Pronunciation: fay-JOE-uh sell-oh-wee-AY-nuh

Common name(s): Feijoa, Pineapple Guava

Family: *Myrtaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 8A through 11 (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: has been evaluated using the IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas (Fox et al. 2005). This species is not documented in any undisturbed natural areas in Florida. Thus, it is not considered a problem species and may be used in Florida.

Uses: specimen; screen; hedge; fruit

Availability: not native to North America



Figure 2. Range

General Information

Scientific name: *Feijoa sellowiana*

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Description

Height: 10 to 15 feet

Spread: 10 to 15 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular

Crown shape: spreading, upright/erect, round

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: ovate, elliptic (oval)

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches, 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white/cream/gray, red

Flower characteristics: showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches

Fruit covering: fleshy

Fruit color: green, yellow

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: gray, green

Current year twig thickness: thin, medium

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: partial sun or partial shade, full sun

Soil tolerances: sand; loam; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: high

Other

Roots: not a problem

Winter interest: no

Outstanding tree: no

Ozone sensitivity: unknown

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: unknown

Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

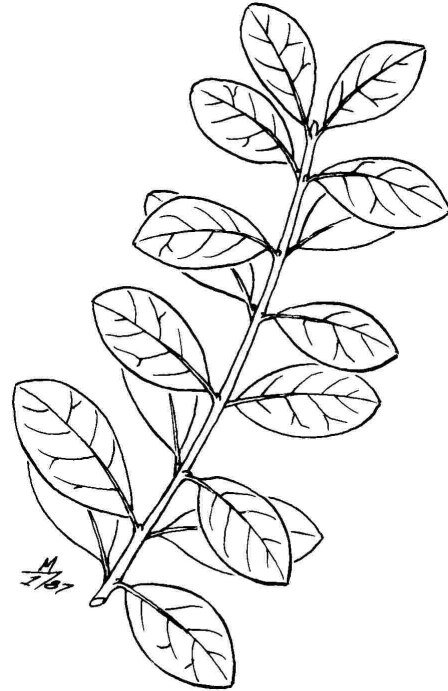


Figure 3. Foliage

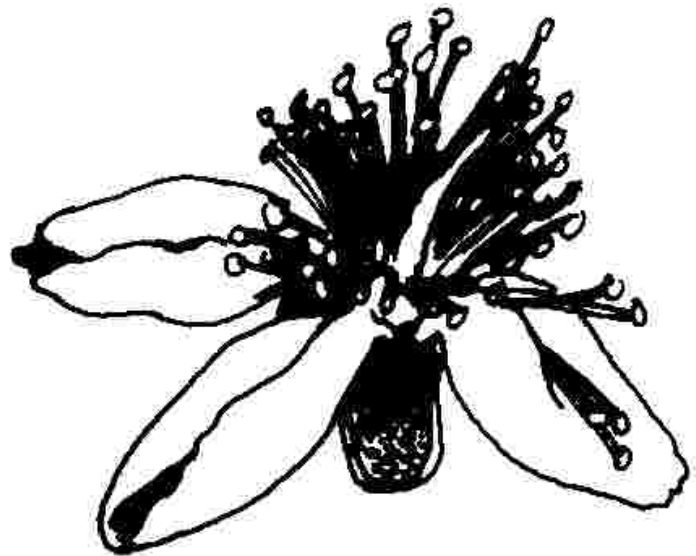


Figure 4. Flower

Use and Management

Propagation is done by seeds and by cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

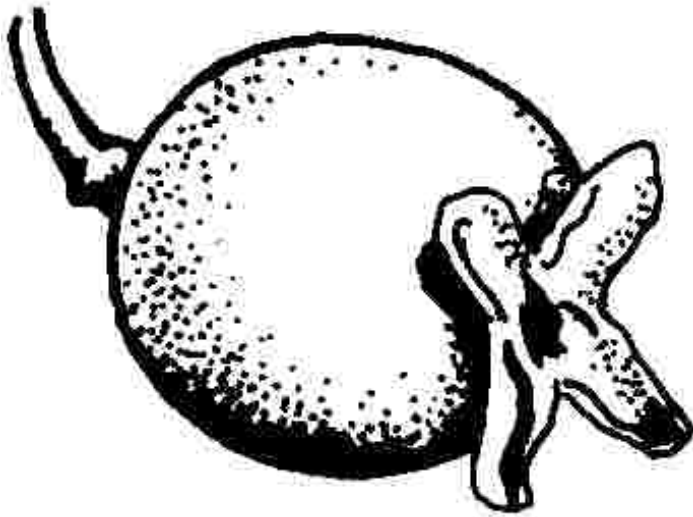


Figure 5. Fruit

Literature Cited

Fox, A.M., D.R. Gordon, J.A. Dusky, L. Tyson, and R.K. Stocker (2005) IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. Cited from the Internet (November 3, 2006), <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/>