


# Psidium guajava

Apple guava	
	
Apple guava ( <i>Psidium guajava</i> ) fruit	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Myrtales
Family:	Myrtaceae
Subfamily:	Myrtoideae
Tribe:	Myrteae
Genus:	<i>Psidium</i>
Species:	<i>P. guajava</i>
Binomial name	
<i>Psidium guajava</i> L.	

The apple guava or **common guava** (*Psidium guajava*; known as *goiaba* in Portuguese and *guayaba* in Spanish) is an evergreen shrub or small tree native to the Caribbean, Central America and South America. It is easily pollinated by insects; in culture, mainly by the common honey bee, *Apis mellifera*.



flower

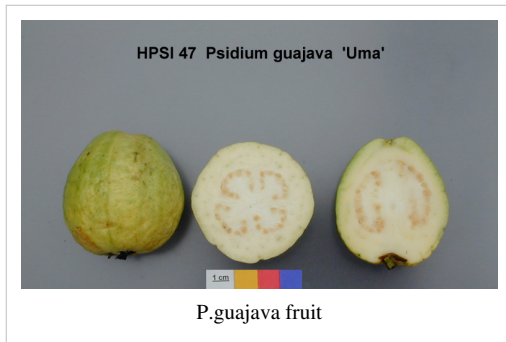


Leafbud



Common guava seedling, 14 months

## Overview



Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions around the world, guava fruits can range in size from as small as an apricot to as large as a grapefruit. Various cultivars have white, pink, or red flesh, and a few also feature red (instead of green) skin.

When cultivated from seed, guavas are notable for an extremely slow growth rate for several months, before a very rapid acceleration in growth rate takes over. From seed, common guavas may bloom and set fruit in as few as 2 years, or as many as 8. Cuttings and grafting are more commonly used as a propagation

method in commercial groves. Highly adaptable, guavas can be easily grown as container plants in temperate regions, though their ability to bloom and set fruit is somewhat less predictable. In some tropical locales, guavas can become invasive. It has become a major problem in the Galápagos Islands.<sup>[1]</sup>

The plant is used in many different shampoo products for its scent. It is also becoming a popular bonsai species and is currently quite popular in India and Eastern Asia.

## Guava kinds

Tropical guavas are known scientifically as *Psidium guajava* they are the best tasting with the largest fruit with the most juice. These are the most frost tender guavas. Tropical guavas grow up to 10–15 feet (3.0–4.6 m) high & wide. The strawberry guava, *Psidium lucidum*, is a shrubby tree with tart but very flavorful fruit that is smaller than a tropical guava. Strawberry guavas are very productive & grown 12 feet (3.7 m) high & wide. The pineapple guava, *Feijoa sellowiana*, is a South American plant related to other guavas. Their fruit is tangy with a citrus flavor. This is the most frost tolerant variety. Pineapple guavas grow to 15 feet high & wide & have wonderful gnarled trunks & make good substitutes for olive trees.

## Climate and soil

Owing to its hardy nature, guava is grown successfully in tropical and subtropical regions up to 1,500 m above mean sea-level. Best quality guavas are obtained where low night temperatures (10 °C) prevail during winter. It tolerates high temperatures and drought conditions in North India during summers but it is susceptible to severe frost as it can kill the young plants. An annual rainfall of about 100 centimetres (39 in) is sufficient during the rainy season (July-September). The rains during harvesting period, however, deteriorate the quality of fruits.

Guava is cultivated on varied types of soils- heavy clay to very light sandy soils. Nevertheless, very good quality guavas are produced in river-basins. It tolerates a soil pH of 4.5-8.2. Maximum concentration of its feeding roots is available up to 25 cm soil depth. Thus the top soil should be quite rich to provide enough nutrients for accelerating new growth which bears fruits.

## Varieties

The varietal characteristics in guava are not as distinct as found in majority of other fruits. Its propagation through seeds reduces the distinctive characteristics of a variety in commercial cultivation. Important guava varieties are:

**Lucknow 49** Also known as **Sardar**, its fruits are large, roundish ovate in shape, skin primrose yellow and pulp white, very sweet and tasty. The TSS and vitamin C contents are high. The trees are vigorous.

**Allahabad Safeda** The most famous variety of Allahabad, it has acquired large variations due to seed propagation. The fruits are large in size, round in shape, skin smooth and yellowish white. The flesh is white, firm, soft having pleasant flavour, high TSS and vitamin C content. The seeds are numerous, bold and hard. The trees are tall with profuse branching and broad crown. It can withstand drought conditions.

**Chittidar** The variety is very popular in western Uttar Pradesh. The fruits are characterized by numerous red dots on the skin, high sweetness, and small and soft seeds. It is otherwise similar to Allahabad safeda fruits in size, shape and pulp. It has higher TSS content than Allahabad Safeda and Lucknow 49 but lower vitamin C content. The tree characters resemble to those of Allahabad Safeda.

**Harijha** Harijha is more popular in Bihar because of profuse bearing. The trees are of medium vigour due to sparse branching. The fruit is round in shape, medium large in size and greenish yellow in color. Flavour is sweet with good keeping quality.

**Hafshi** It is a red-fleshed guava having good taste. It is mainly grown in Bihar. Fruit is of moderately big sized, spherical in shape with thin skin. Trees are of medium vigour but productive.

**Apple guava** Its fruits are medium sized and pink colored. They are sweet in taste with good keeping quality. They require low temperature for the development of good pink color. The trees are of medium vigour but their leaves are greener than others. However, it is a moderate yielder.

**Fruits of sebia** (looking like apple) variety low temperature for the development of good pink color. The trees are of medium vigour but their leaves are greener than others. However, it is a moderate yielder.

**Seedless** All the seedless varieties viz. Saharanpur Seedless, Nagpur seedless and others, are the same. Two types of fruits, completely seedless and partly seeded, are borne on a plant of seedless variety. The completely seedless fruits develop on the shoots rising from the stem and these are bigger in size and irregular in shape. The partly seeded fruits are born on normal shoots at the periphery and are small in size and round in shape. Seedless variety is unfit for commercial cultivation because it gives very low yield. The plants are very vigorous.

**Arka Mridula** This is a seedling selection of variety Allahabad Safeda. Its medium sized fruits are of excellent quality with high TSS. The white pulp has only few soft seeds. The plants are of medium vigour but high yielding.

**Allahabad Surkha** Allahabad Surkha is an outstanding variety of large, uniform pink fruits with deep pink flesh. The plants produce up to 120 kg fruits in its sixth year of fruiting. The fruit is sweet, strongly flavoured with few seeds and is slightly depressed at both ends. The plants are vigorous, dome shaped and compact.


## Chemistry

The leaves of *P. guajava* contains the flavonol morin, morin-3-O-lyxoside, morin-3-O-arabinoside, quercetin and quercetin-3-O-arabinoside.<sup>[2]</sup>

## References

- [1] <http://www.wondermondo.com/Countries/SA/Ecuador/Galapagos/ScalesiaSantaCruz.htm>
- [2] Bacteriostatic effect of flavonoids isolated from leaves of *Psidium guajava* on fish pathogens. Rattanachaikunsopon Pongsak and Phumkhachorn Parichat, *Fitoterapia*, 2007, volume 78, number 6, pages 434-436,

## External links

 Data related to *Psidium guajava* at Wikispecies

- (Portuguese) Federal University of Uberlândia: Culture of Apple Guava (<http://www.fruticultura.iciag.ufu.br/goiabao.html>)
- Guava: a nutritious tropical fruit (<http://www.itfnet.org/v1/2013/07/2766/>)

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