To Be Added As Additional Taxa Under Acca sellowiana In Landscape Plants For Texas And Environs, Third Edition:

Psidium guajava L.  

Common Guava

C Also known as Apple Guava, Bayaba, Enandi, Gaiaba, Gauave, Guava, Guayaba Colorado, Guayaba de China, Guayaba de Gusano, Guayabo de Venado, Guayaba Manzano, Guayaba Peruana, Guayaba Perulera, Gujavabaum, Posh, Posh-Keip, Poos, Poos-Cuy, Sand-Apple, Sand-Plum, Xalxocoth, or Yellow Guava; a group of P. guayava is called a Guaya-Bales in Mexico.

C Common Guava can become a 30 ft tall medium size evergreen tree in the tropics, but is seldom more than a large shrub or small tree in the lower Rio Grande Valley which is the only portion of our region where this species can be grown outdoors; even there, Common Guava should be grown in a highly protected location and damage should be expected in cold winters; in Texas it is usually a low branched dieback shrub; where trunks are not damaged, the bark is tan or red-brown, flaking to uncover a greenish inner bark; this species is native to tropical Central and South America, but has become widely naturalized in tropical regions throughout the world in USDA zones 10 (9b) and 11.

C The foliage is quite handsome maturing dark green and leathery with highly impressed pinnate veins; leaves are opposite, simple, elliptic to oblong-oval, and vary in length from (1) 3O to 6Q; twigs are decidedly squarish in cross-section; Common Guava is moderately coarse in texture; the mildly fragrant white to creamy white flowers with numerous whitish stamen are not as showy as those of A. sellowiana.

C The musky scented fruit of P. guajava is commercially grown for use in a processed form in jellies, jams, pastes, confections, juices or flavored beverages; fruit mature in late summer or fall in South Texas; selections are available with improved fruit characteristics (see the latest Texas Cooperative Extension recommendations); fruit are elliptic spherical to pyriform many-seeded berries with a pitted surface that range in size from to ¾Q to 4Q long; fruit ripen in color from green to yellow-green, yellow, or pink.

C This is a popular tropical tree, mostly used for home orchard or novelty purposes in the extreme southern portions of our region; provide irrigation and most well-drained garden soils are adequate; Common Guava is not particularly salt tolerant; use in full sun for best fruit production.

C The genus name is derived from the Greek word for pomegranate, “psidion”, and the specific epithet drives from “guayabo” which is the Spanish name for this plant; the flower buds and leaves are used medicinally by indigenous peoples in Mexico.

C Psidium littorale G. Raddi (Psidium cattleianum, Psidium longipes, Psidium lucidum) is a similar species to P. guajava, but smaller in stature (to about 15), possessing of smaller leaves, and is valued for its yellow (P. littorale var. littorale, Waiawi, Yellow Cattley Guava, or Yellow Strawberry Guava) or dark red [Psidium littorale G. Raddi var. longipes (O. Berg) F. Fosberg, Cattley Guava, Purple Guava, or Strawberry Guava] ¾Q long fruit; hardiness and adaptation are similar to that of P. guajava.


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