

Feijoa sellowiana Guava¹

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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 (Fig. 1). 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Feijoa sellowiana*

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

Common name(s): Guava, Feijoa, Pineapple Guava

Family: *Myrtaceae*

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

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: fruit tree; hedge; screen; specimen; no proven urban tolerance

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

DESCRIPTION

Height: 10 to 15 feet

Spread: 10 to 15 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette

Crown shape: round; spreading; upright

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: medium

Texture: medium

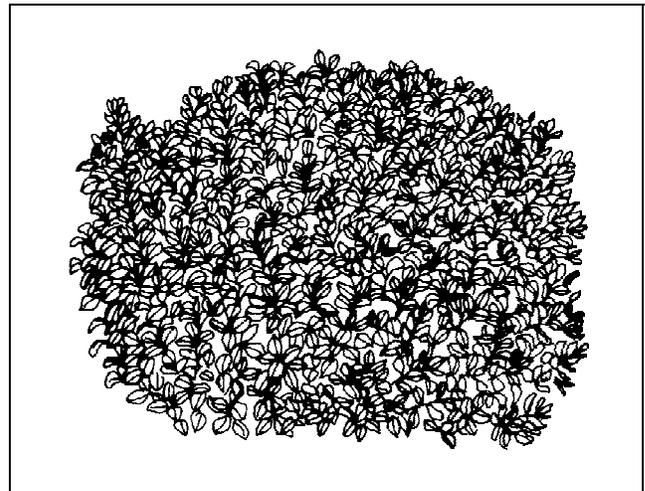


Figure 1. Young Guava.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: elliptic (oval); ovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

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

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Flower

Flower color: red; white

Flower characteristics: showy; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches

Fruit covering: fleshy

Fruit color: green; yellow

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; suited for human consumption; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter; showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; showy trunk; no thorns

Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: green; gray

Current year twig thickness: medium; thin

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

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

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: high

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Propagation is done by seeds and by cuttings.

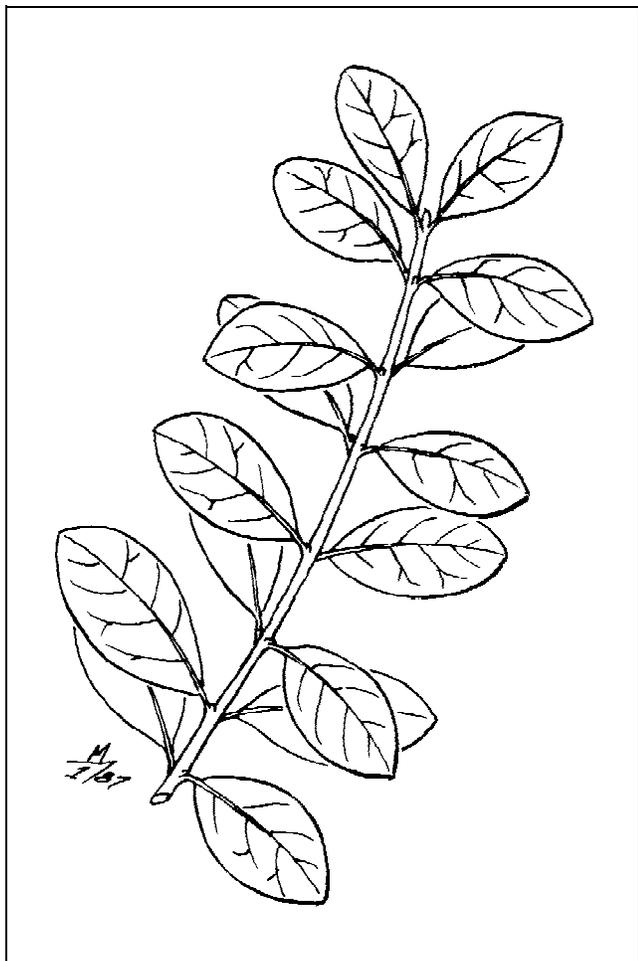


Figure 3. Foliage of Guava.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.