

Pineapple Guava - *Feijoa Sellowiana* O.

The under-used Pineapple Guava is a great medium-large shrub that is evergreen and produces interesting, slightly fragrant blooms. This slow growing shrub can even be trained into a small ornamental tree, but makes a superb dense hedge or screen alternative to eleagnus. It can reach up to fifteen feet tall and wide if left un-pruned.

The oval-shaped blue-green leaves are thick and leathery, smooth on top, silvery/gray underneath-- it looks great blowing in the breeze. The awesome little flowers are lovely, and appear late spring and usually bloom through June. Each flower has four to six thick petals. Birds eat the petals and while doing so, pollinate the flowers, however bees are the main pollinators. Plant more than one to increase pollination efficiency.



Pineapple Guava can grow in a variety of temperatures and is drought tolerant once established. It can tolerate some partial shade and prefers good drainage. They are somewhat forgiving of saline water, but it slows growth even more and lessens fruit bearing capability. Pest and disease problems are virtually non-existent. Pineapple guava are attractive year-round and very low-maintenance. Fertilize lightly in early spring with complete all-purpose fertilizer at one-fourth pound per yard.



The pineapple guava responds well to light pruning, which keeps it vigorous, and is helpful for keeping desired shape. Remove old wood from the center of the shrub to encourage new growth.

Propagating pineapple guava from seed can be done, but it does not produce consistent fruit. They are best propagated by cuttings or grafting from known cultivars. The best cultivars for fruit production are: 'Nazmetz', 'Pineapple Gem', and 'Trask'. Note that fruit production is diminished in higher humidity areas, due to decreased pollination.

Interesting tidbits:

- The flower petals can be added to salads.
- The fruits can also be eaten and have a minty-pineapple flavor. They are mainly used fresh as dessert or in salads.
- *Feijoa sellowiana* is the name most commonly used, but the official name is *Acca sellowiana*.