

Guava is easy to grow, and the fruits are highly nutritious and rich in vitamin C. The fruit can be eaten fresh, made into a refreshing drink, or processed in many other ways. The entire fruit can be used, the hard small seeds eaten right along with the pulp.

There are jelly guavas, which contain enough natural pectin for making jelly, and sweet guavas.

Planting Instructions

Prepare the soil by adding 1 part organic matter, such as our **Rockledge Gardens amendment mix** to 1 part existing soil (use more Planting Mix in sandy soil). Use this mix to backfill the hole. Add the appropriate amount of **Bio-Tone Starter Plus** (see directions) when planting. Work these into the soil alongside the rootball while planting. Apply **Citrus-Tone** around the tree every 2 months. These organic products will stimulate root growth for quicker establishment.

Watering

When temperatures are hot, water your tree daily for the first two weeks by filling the water reservoir (or use two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter). In cooler weather, water every other day. Weeks 3 and 4, water every other day (twice a week in cooler weather). Continue reducing in two-week stages until you're watering only once per week.

During the dry season and periods of drought, you should supply even mature trees with an inch of water weekly in warm weather (every two weeks in cooler weather).

Maintenance

A month after planting, begin feeding with **Sunniland Citrus Fertilizer or Citrus-tone**. Start with no more than 1/4 pound at monthly or bi-monthly intervals, increasing the rates in line with plant growth (see bag instructions). To supply necessary minor elements, **Citrus Nutritional Spray** should also be applied as needed. We also strongly recommend spraying Guava trees often with **Maxicrop Liquid Seaweed**, especially in February and November, to boost the immune system of the tree. Liquid Seaweed and Citrus Nutritional Spray can be applied together. There are no serious pest or disease problems with these fruits other than the Caribbean fruit fly.

Varieties

- 'Barbie Pink' - Rated as one of the best guavas and planted all over the world, this variety was developed by Hopkins Tropical Nursery and named after Barbara Hopkins. Flowers are sweetly aromatic and fruit is large with a slight pear to oval shape with light pink flesh. Seed count is small relative to the size of the fruit.

- 'Indian Red' – Medium to large, pear-shaped fruit with strong aroma. The yellow skin often develops a pink blush when ripe. The red flesh is medium thick and has a sweet flavor. Seeds are numerous but small. The tree is fairly productive in fall and early winter.

- 'Indonesian Seedless' – The fruit has a pleasing pear-like flavor and texture. While most guava trees are rounded, the Indonesian is more irregular in shape with little uniformity to the fruit size. The fruit rarely contains seeds which are very small (about ¼ inch).

- 'Peruvian White' – . This variety is one of the best white fleshed guavas. It produces a medium-sized, tasty and rounded fruit. The fast growing plant generally produces in 2-3 years.

- 'Redland' – This medium-sized fruit looks like a Bartlett pear when fully ripe. It has pink flesh and a good number of seeds. It is high in pectin and excellent for making jellies. It has the strongest "guava" flavor of all the guavas.

- 'Ruby Supreme' - One the sweetest guavas. The fruit is red fleshed, medium-sized and rounded. The tree generally bears delicious fruit after two years.

- 'Tikal' - This very nice fruit is rounded and has deep pink to almost red flesh. The sweet fruit has a smooth texture and a pleasing flavor that is not overpowering. It has a relatively small seed cavity.

- 'Tropical' – The tasty fruit varies in size, shape, flesh color and taste because they are seedlings resulting from new crosses between guava hybrids.

- 'Vietnam' – This large, sweet fruit has an apple-like crunchy texture but must be eaten green. It has a small seed count relative to the size of the fruit.

Rockledge Gardens