



GUAVA CARE

Guavas are tropical plants that produce sweet fruit that is high in vitamin C. Guava fruit is often made into jelly or preserves but can also be eaten fresh. Guavas can do well in a wide range of soils, but need protection for heavy frosts in northern and central California.

Planting

Guavas can be grown in containers or in the ground. They prefer well drained soils, but can thrive in a wide range of different soils types. They do best in soils with a pH of between 5 and 7. Soils that are high in salts can be problematic for guavas and should be avoided.

Watering

Guavas prefer regular deep root watering. Guavas can survive saturated soil conditions, but it is best to allow the soil to dry out somewhat between irrigations.

Pruning

Guavas are amenable to pruning and shaping. They can tolerate heavy pruning and can also be trimmed to grow as hedges if desired. Remove all suckers and water shoots annually for best results. Guavas fruit on new growth, so pruning will not negatively affect fruit set.

Fertilizing

Guavas are fast growing heavy feeders and can greatly benefit from regular feeding. Apply fruit tree fertilizers monthly, and especially just before heavy pruning.

Other Tips

Guavas need to be protected from heavy frosts. Simply cover them with a sheet, blanket or frost bag at night when you know the threat of frost is present. Guavas can sometimes be bothered by typical fruit tree pests including mealy-bug, scale, or whitefly. Control of these pests can be achieved with a few applications of horticultural oil or insecticidal soap and regular pruning that keeps the guava plants open with good air flow. It will also be necessary to control any ants that are crawling on the guavas. Ant baits such as Boric Acid can be effective for control.

GUAVA VARIETIES

Tropical White Guava *P. quajava crema* White flesh is succulent, sweet, and aromatic. Skin is light yellow, sometimes blushed with red.

Tropical Pink Guava *P. quajava rosa* Pink flesh is smooth textured, mild to sweet. Skin turns from green to yellow. Attractive green foliage.

Lemon Guava *P. cattleianum lucidum* Yellow flesh is juicy, sweet, and aromatic. Skin is light yellow. Tree is more hardy than tropical guava.

Red Malaysian Guava *P. quajava rojo malaysia* Burgundy flesh is juicy, sweet, and aromatic. Skin and foliage are green with beautiful red coloration.