

Feijoa sellowiana – Pineapple Guava

This species originates from Brazil. It is a delightful and highly ornamental shrub to small tree that normally reaches 3m in height and width in cultivation. It has mid green aromatic leaves similar to most citrus, 10 to 20cm long and 5 to 10cm wide. It produces very attractive blooms as illustrated in the summer followed by edible deep red to purple fruit in the Autumn. It makes an excellent jelly or jam or just as a tasty fresh fruit snack on a warm day.

Feijoa prefers a light loamy well-drained soil (but not extreme alkalinity) in full sun or part shade. It is a tough hardy plant that is drought tolerant and can take subtropical climates and the cold and frost to about -12°C . Germination is straightforward without any requirement of pretreatment. Heat and drought tolerant. Can be grown in full sun to part shade.

Sow in trays, pots, etc of good seed compost in a propagator or warm place to maintain an optimum temperature of $13-15^{\circ}\text{C}$. Sowing Depth: 1.5mm. Sow at any time of year. Soak in lukewarm water for 1 -2 hours before sowing in well drained compost.

Germinates in 3 - 6 weeks at 15°C . Prick out the seedlings into individual pots as soon as they are large enough to handle. Grow on for at least the first winter in shelter in frost prone areas and plant out in late spring or early Summer after the last expected frosts. Give the plants some protection for their first winter outdoors.

