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*Passiflora alata*

[Synonyms : *Passiflora alata* var. *latifolia*, *Passiflora latifolia*, *Passiflora phoenicia*]

**WINGED-STEMMED PASSIONFLOWER** is a climbing vine. Native to eastern Brazil and north-eastern Peru, it has fragrant crimson, scarlet, purple, red and white flowers.

It is also known as Fragrant granadilla, *Maracujá doce* (Portuguese), *Passiflore à tiges ailées* (French), Passion flower, Wild passion fruit, and Wingstem passionflower.

The flowers of some cultivated varieties can be as much as 6 in. wide. One of these large pear-shaped fruit can weigh as much as ¾ lb.

*Alata* is derived from Latin *ala* (wing) meaning ‘winged’ with reference to the winged stems. The vine is cultivated for its yellowish-orange fruit (particularly in some parts of Brazil where they are a familiar sight in local markets) and the aromatic and slightly acidic, pale orange fruit pulp is used to make drinks.

It is also grown as an ornamental plant in Malaysia. In fact some authorities in south-eastern Asia claim that the vine is viewed in that region as a whole as an ornamental plant not a source of fruit.

Medicinally, the leaves contain a sedative that has been used to treat insomnia, anxiety and epilepsy.