

Passiflora ligularis

[Synonyms : *Passiflora ligularis* var. *geminiflora*, *Passiflora lowei*, *Passiflora serratistipula*]

SWEET GRANADILLA is a climbing vine. Native from Peru to Venezuela, Bolivia and Central America in subtropical areas, it has musky and sweet-smelling, greenish-white flowers with many purple-striped white filaments.

It is also known as *Barbadine* (French), *Granadilla* (Bolivian, Costa Rican, Ecuadorean, English, German, Mexican, Peruvian), *Granadilla común* (Guatemalan), *Granadille* (French), *Granaditta* (Jamaican), *Grenadille de montagne* (French), *Grenadille douce* (French), *Lani wai* (Hawaiian), *Lemi wai* (Hawaiian), *Lemona* (Hawaiian), *Liliwai* (Hawaiian), *Love apple*, *Maracujá-urucú* (Portuguese), *Mūtunda* (Kikuyu), *Parcha amarilla* (Venezuelan), *Parcha importada* (Venezuelan), *Passionfruit*, *Passionsfrucht* (German), *Sweet granadilla*, *Tumbo* (Amazonian), *Water lemon*, and *Yellow passionfruit*.

The flowers usually open in the morning and close the following evening.

Ligularis is derived from Latin *ligula* (strap, promontory) meaning ‘strap-like’.

The vine is cultivated widely on a commercial scale for its shiny white-spotted, yellow-orange fruit with their aromatic juicy, soft white pulp and sweet distinctive taste and these are a familiar sight in local markets within its native habitat. They are used to make ice creams, sorbets and soft drinks – and in several countries are eaten as a breakfast fruit.. Some authorities note that in Colombia the berries offer what is held to be a healthy babyfood. (Some authorities claim that the fruit are better than those from yellow granadilla (*Passiflora laurifolia*) and that they are even enjoyable when still green.)

The fruit are enjoyed by birds and animals which are responsible for dispersing the seed.

Apart from its fruit the vine is also cultivated as an ornamental plant.

In both Hawaii and the Galapagos Islands the vine has come to be viewed as invasive. It can envelop high trees and smother them thus excluding the light and killing the understory. In Indonesia sweet granadilla provides an example of how alien plants can unexpectedly become a problem. The vine was introduced to that part of the world in the 19th Century and proceeded to acclimatize itself over many decades. But in about 1984 it began to move and envelop gaps in the forest.

Medicinally, the fruit have been used in Amazonia as a preventative for yellow fever, gallstones, rabies and ulcers. That region also prescribes a leaf decoction for preventing malaria and other fevers, and for easing stomach upsets.