

*Psidium guineense*

[Synonyms : *Guajava guineense*, *Guajava molle*, *Guajava polycarpa*, *Psidium araca*, *Psidium benthamianum*, *Psidium chrysobalanoides*, *Psidium costaricense*, *Psidium dichotomum*, *Psidium guyanense*, *Psidium hasslerianum*, *Psidium laurifolium*, *Psidium molle*, *Psidium molle* var. *gracile*, *Psidium monticola*, *Psidium ooideum* var. *longipendunculatum*, *Psidium polycarpon*, *Psidium rotundifolium*, *Psidium schiedeana*, *Psidium schippii*, *Psidium sericiflorum*]

**BRAZILIAN GUAVA** is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to tropical America it has small, fragrant white flowers with many prominent stamens.

It is also known as *Allpa guayaba* (Ecuadorean), *Araca* (German), *Araçá* (Brazilian, Portuguese), *Aracá do campo* (Brazilian), *Aracahy* (Brazilian), *Araçái* (Brazilian, Spanish), *Brasiliansk-guava* (Swedish), *Cas extranjero* (Costa Rican), Castilian guava, *Chamacch* (Guatemalan), *Chamach* (Guatemalan), *Goyavier du Brésil* (French), *Goyavier-fraise* (French), *Guabillo* (Peruvian), Guava, *Guayaba* (Guatemalan), *Guayaba acida* (Guatemalan), *Guayaba agria* (Brazilian, Venezuelan), *Guayaba arraijan* (Panamanian), *Guayaba brava* (Peruvian), *Guayaba de sabana* (Venezuelan), *Guayaba hedionda* (Guatemalan), *Guayaba sabanera* (Venezuelan), *Guayabillo* (Salvadoran), *Guayabita* (Panamanian), *Guayabita de sabana* (Panamanian), Guinea guava, *Guisaro* (Costa Rican), Guyana guava, *Huayava* (Peruvian), *Pataj* (Guatemalan), *Pichippul* (Guatemalan), *Sacha guayaba* (Peruvian), Strawberry guava, and Wild guava.

*Guineense* means ‘of or from western Africa eg. the Guinea coast’.

It has often been cultivated locally for its small fragrant fruit with their thick, pale yellowish skin (surrounding tart white pulp embedded with small, hard seeds). These have been baked as a pudding, as well as used to make preserves.

Hides have been cured with the bark which is rich in tannin.

Brazilian guava like many of its close relatives has been introduced widely outside its native habitat, including to countries in Asia and parts of Africa.

The strong wood has been used for making agricultural equipment and tool handles. It has been noted by some authorities that in India (in the extreme north-east on the borders with Bangladesh) this wood has been collected for fuel to such an extent that the plant is viewed as endangered there.

A 3 Rs. (rupee) stamp featuring the Brazilian guava was issued in India in March 2000.

Medicinally, local herbalists have used bark or roots in treating dysentery, diarrhoea and urinary diseases, a leaf decoction has been recommended to ease bronchitis and colds. It has also been used to treat leg ulcers, and varicose veins.