

Psidium littorale var. *longipes*

[Synonyms : *Eugenia bahamensis*, *Eugenia longipes*, *Guajava cattleyana*, *Mosiera bahamensis*, *Mosiera longipes*, *Myrtus bahamensis*, *Myrtus verrucosa*, *Psidium cattleianum*, *Psidium cattleianum* var. *cattleianum*, *Psidium cattleianum* var. *coriaceum*, *Psidium cattleianum* var. *littorale*, *Psidium cattleyanum*, *Psidium chinense*, *Psidium coriaceum* var. *grandifolium*, *Psidium coriaceum* var. *longipes*, *Psidium coriaceum* var. *obovatum*, *Psidium littorale*, *Psidium littorale* var. *littorale*, *Psidium longipes*, *Psidium longipes* var. *longipes*, *Psidium variable*]

PINEAPPLE GUAVA is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to Brazil it has small, fragrant white flowers with many stamens.

It is also known as *Araca da praia* (Brazilian), *Araza* (Uruguayan), Calcutta guava, *Cas dulce* (Costa Rican), Cattle guava, Cherry guava, Chinese guava, English strawberry guava, *Erdbeerguave* (German), *Farang* (Thai), *Goyavier* (Seychellois), *Goyavier de Chine* (French), *Goyavier rouge* (Seychellois), *Guave* (German), *Guayaba japonesa* (Guatemalan), *Guayaba peruana* (Venezuelan), *Jambu biji* (Malaysian), *Koilya-pallam* (Tamil), *Kua 'va* (Samoan), Mangroveberry, *Ma-pun* (Thai), *Ngguava* (Fijian), Purple guava, Purple strawberry guava, Red cherry guava, Red strawberry guava, Strawberry guava, *Tūava* (Cook Islander), *Tūava papa 'ā* (Cook Islander), *Tuava tinito* (French Polynesian), *Tuvava tinito* (French Polynesian), and *Waiawi 'ula 'ula* (Hawaiian).

Littorale means 'of the seashore'. *Longipes* is derived from Latin *longi-* (long) and *-pes* (foot) components meaning 'with long stalks'.

This plant is considered to be highly invasive in many parts of the tropics. Since its introduction in the early 19th Century Hawaii has experienced pineapple guava's invasive nature. These purplish-red fruit are eaten by birds and feral pigs which then distribute the seed (as in other places do monkeys – and human beings). The plant smothers native vegetation and prevents regeneration – and it has been declared a weed there, one that is infesting all the Hawaiian islands. It is also threatening Pacific ecosystems and in Florida in the south-eastern United States too it has been declared an invasive plant.

Pineapple guava is cultivated widely in the tropics and subtropics for its small aromatic fruit with their translucent, sweet strawberry-tasting juicy pulp. These have been eaten raw, and made into ice cream, jam and drinks.

It was first introduced to Singapore in 1877 and authorities on south-eastern Asia note that it is primarily viewed in that regions as a source of edible fruit. It has also been introduced to Africa, including the Gold Coast and southern Africa and in the latter region it is a familiar sight on the Natal coast.