



Cattley Guava

“Strawberry” and “Lemon”

The Cattley Guava (Lemon or Strawberry) is a tasty tropical plant that's well suited for container growing. The sweet, yellow or red, fruit arrives in abundance from summer through fall. It can be grown successfully as a potted plant in northern zones.

Plant Highlights

Height: 15 to 25 feet

Spread: 12 to 20 feet

Flower color: white/cream/gray

Flower characteristics: showy

Light requirement: full sun, partial sun or partial shade

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high



This upright, multi-branched, evergreen shrub or small tree has many features which make it a popular landscape choice.

Capable of reaching 25 feet in height but often seen at 10 to 15 feet, the thick, smooth, dark green, four-inch-long, leathery leaves nicely complement the smooth, grey-brown to golden bark which attractively peels off in thin sheets.

The single, white, one-inch-diameter flowers have many prominent stamens and look like powderpuffs in miniature. The blooms appear heaviest in April but can open sporadically throughout the year.

It would make a good small boulevard or median street tree and accents an area with its well-shaped canopy and interesting trunk form. It combines well with other plants in a shrub border and provides both food and cover for wildlife.

Cattley Guava grows well in full sun or partial shade on a wide range of soils, including sand or clay, but fruit quality is improved on rich soils. Plants are drought-tolerant once established but benefit from a thick, organic mulch. Any necessary pruning should be done after fruiting. Pick the fruit for eating before the fruit fly larvae discover it.

Strawberry Guava: 1.5-inch-diameter, bright red, pear-shaped fruits ripen to a very dark red.

Psidium littorale var. *littorale* , Lemon Guava, is slower-growing and has large yellow fruits with delightful, spicy flavor.

Propagation is by air-layerings or by seeds. Seeds germinate easily and rapidly. Seedling plants take seven or eight years to bear fruit.



