

Psidium guajava

COMMON NAME

yellow guava

FAMILY

Myrtaceae

AUTHORITY

Psidium guajava L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

FEATURES

Yellow guava is a small tree, growing to c. 3m, with smooth bark. The leaves are large (up to 14 x 7 cm) and have strong venation. Young leaves are densely hairy. The fruit are up to 4 cm diameter and yellow-skinned containing many hard seeds.

SIMILAR TAXA

P. guajava can be distinguished from *P. cattleianum* by the hairy leaves (especially when young) and by the strongly impressed veins above and raised below.

FLOWERING

July, August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November-March

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by seed and suckering; each fruit containing numerous seeds. Bird dispersed (Lisa Forester 1996). Rats also eat the fruit but will destroy many of the seeds.

THREATS

This taxon may be prone to Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is an invasive fungus which threatens myrtle species - learn more myrtlerust.org.nz

YEAR NATURALISED

1965

ORIGIN

Trop America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

TOLERANCES

Intolerance of frost and deep shade (Cameron 1996)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/psidium-guajava/>

