

Description

Chilean Guava
Ugni Molinae
Family: Myrtaceae

Chilean Guava is an easy-care, winter-hardy shrub which grows up to 1.7m in height and 1.5m wide. It has bright, brown bark and small, leathery leaves about 2cm long and 1.5cm wide and small drooping creamy or white flowers. This plant is quite dense and bushy and has traditionally been grown as a hedge. It spreads a pleasant fragrance similar to pineapple.

Growing Tips

This herb likes either sun or shade and its fruit start to develop after about three years.

Trim well in the first year to shape into a compact bush.

Parts Used

Fruit

Uses

Chilean Guava is also known as Ugniberry, New Zealand Cranberry or Tassi Berry in Australia and its taste is a mix of pineapple, apple and strawberry. In its country of origin it is used in jams and features in the liqueur Murtado.

When boiled together with quince and sugar it makes a Chilean dessert called Murta con membrillo. It can be used in sweet and sour sauces due to its similarity to cranberry.

The colour and texture indicates presence of tannins and antioxidants but its medicinal benefits have not yet been explored.

Origin & History

Chilean Guava, as the name suggests, originates in Chile and Southern Argentina and was first mentioned by Juan Ignacio Mulino who gave it half of its botanical name.

It was brought to England in 1844 and was a favoured ornamental by Queen Victoria.

