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Guava

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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Guavas have been grown in Perth suburban gardens for many years, mostly because this attractive, shrubby tree is easy to grow, and because some people find the fruit appealing. Home gardeners find the Mediterranean fruit fly difficult to control in guava crops.

Guava is a common home garden fruit in most Asian and African countries, where it is valued for its high vitamin C content.

Commercial potential
Western Australia has no commercial guava orchards, so few fruit find their way to the shop shelves. However, there could be scope for commercial plantings of dessert guavas locally and in parts of the North-West.

Many migrants, and Western Australians who have visited Asia from time to time, enjoy this fruit. If it were readily available many more could acquire a taste for it.

Growth details
The guava (Psidium guajava) originated in the South American tropics, but has become well established throughout the world’s warmer regions. It is a small tree, three to eight metres tall, evergreen, with green-grey leaves.

The fruit of most varieties is round, though some types are ovoid. The skin and flesh vary according to variety from creamy white to deep pink. The texture and flavour also vary. Good dessert varieties have few seeds and weigh at least 150 grams.

Guavas thrive in most soil types, provided they are well watered throughout summer. They will grow in cool regions and will tolerate light frosts.