

Guava

Psidium guajava · Myrtle family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Evergreen perennial shrub/small tree
MATURITY 2–4 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Moderate,
drought-tolerant
once established



SOIL PH
5.5–7.0



SPACING
3–5m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Vigorous and forgiving

Guava is one of the easier subtropical fruit trees for a homestead — fast-growing, fairly drought-tolerant once established, and productive with minimal input.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant with the root flare at soil level.
SOIL	Tolerant of a wide range of soils.
TIMING	Plant in spring, warm zones ideally frost-free.

04 Problems

- **Fruit fly** — net or bag developing fruit.
- **Guava moth** — larvae in fruit, a significant pest in some regions; bag fruit if it's an issue locally.
- **Frost damage** — mainly affects young plants.
- **Vigorous, invasive suckering** — remove unwanted suckers to keep the tree in bounds.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Native groundcovers	Where suckering would be unwelcome	Not applicable — long-lived perennial shrub/tree.

03 Growing care

- Water regularly while young, then ease off once established.
- Prune to control size — guava can grow quite large if left unchecked.
- Feed lightly a couple of times a year.
- Protect from hard frost while young.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit yields slightly to gentle pressure and becomes fragrant.
METHOD	Cut or twist from the stem.
CURING	Ripen at room temperature for a few days if picked slightly firm.
STORAGE	Fridge, about a week once ripe.