

About Community in Bloom

Community in Bloom (CIB) is a programme that was launched by the National Parks Board (NParks) in 2005. It aims to nurture a gardening culture among Singaporeans by encouraging and facilitating community gardening efforts. It is also an opportunity to build community bonds and strengthen social resilience in our City in Nature.



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In support of:



For more information, visit our website at www.nparks.gov.sg/cib or email us at CommunityInBloom@nparks.gov.sg

For more gardening resources and tips, visit go.gov.sg/gardening-resources

To learn more about our City in Nature, scan the QR code or visit www.nparks.gov.sg/about-us/city-in-nature



Know 10 Fruit Trees

This brochure features 10 of the most commonly cultivated 'dwarf edible fruit trees' in Singapore. This term generally refers to trees that produce fruits that can be eaten such as Kedondong, Belimbing and Chiku.

There are numerous varieties of dwarf edible fruit trees that can be grown in Singapore. We hope that this brochure will encourage you to try growing these edibles on your own or in your community garden!

Why Grow Dwarf Fruit Trees?

Many fruit trees can easily grow up to 4 m or even taller as they mature, and become a great challenge for gardeners to prune and maintain. The fruits may even be too high up to reach without a ladder.



Vegetative Propagation

Besides sowing seeds, many fruit trees can be propagated vegetatively. This involves removing parts of a parent plant to create new plants. Vegetative propagation is advantageous as it takes a shorter time for plants to reach maturity, and the new plants retain the characteristics of the parent plant. Here are some ways you can propagate plants vegetatively!

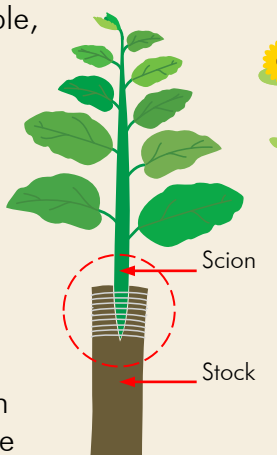
Plant Care - Pruning

Pruning is an important part of plant maintenance and help to:

- Improve overall tree health by removing damaged and diseased branches
- Encourage the production of more flowers, flower buds or fruits
- Keep these fruit trees at a reasonable height within reach to allow easier harvesting of fruits
- Increase light penetration and air circulation
- Shape the trees

Propagation by Grafting

Plants such as Custard Apple, Chiku, Kedondong and Soursop can be propagated by grafting. Take a portion of the branch of the desired plant (the scion) and join it to the branch of another plant (the stock).



Once done, wrap it up with a plastic sheet and cable tie it to maintain the moisture level for at least three to four months.

Propagation by Stem Cutting

Plants such as Guava and Limau purut can be propagated by stem cuttings. Select a branch with three to four nodes (growing points) and cut it with a clean pair of secateurs. Keep the top two or so pairs of leaves and remove the rest. Insert the cut branch into a mixture of sand and peat.



Belimbing

Scientific Name
Averrhoa bilimbi



Plant Characteristics

The Belimbing is a tree that can grow up to 10 m tall. It has fragrant purplish-red flowers that grow in clusters on the trunk and branches. The fruits are oblong-shaped and will turn a yellowish-green colour when they mature. It has soft skin with a crunchy, juicy flesh.

Cultivation and Plant Care

The Belimbing can be grown on moist, well-draining and fertile loamy soils, under full sun conditions with moderate watering. It is usually propagated by seed.

Uses

The Belimbing fruits can be eaten raw. However, due to its sour taste, the fruit is often preserved as pickles, chutneys and relishes. It can also be added into *sambal* – a Southeast Asian chilli paste.

Limau Purut

Scientific Name
Citrus hystrix



Plant Characteristics

The Limau purut is a small tree that can grow up to 6 m tall. It has a thorny stem and branches. The dark green leaves are easily distinguished by its 'pinched' middle and appear as if two leaves are fused together. The fruits are round or egg-shaped with a wrinkled and bumpy texture. They turn from dark green to yellow as they ripen.

Cultivation and Plant Care

The Limau purut can be grown on moist to fertile loamy soils, under full sun to semi-shade conditions, and with moderate watering. It can be propagated by seed and stem cutting.

Uses

The Limau purut is often grown for its various culinary uses. The leaves add a lemony flavour to several Southeast Asian dishes such as Thai *tom yum* soup. Aside from being added to thirst-quenching juice mixes, the fruits are also served as condiments alongside Malay dishes such as *mee rebus* or the Peranakan *mee siam*.

Chiku

Scientific Name
Manilkara zapota



Plant Characteristics

The Chiku is a tree that can grow up to 30 m tall. It has glossy leaves that grow in a spiral arrangement. The flowers are bell-shaped and light green in colour. It has round fruits that are brown in colour, with yellowish-brown flesh.

Cultivation and Plant Care

As the Chiku plant is tolerant of soils with high salt content, it can be grown on a variety of soil types, ranging from dry to fertile loamy and well-draining, under full sun conditions and along coastal areas. It can be propagated by seed or grafting.

Uses

The Chiku is grown for its edible fruit that is described to have a sweet, pear-like flavour. It can be eaten raw or included in desserts such as *kulfi*, which is an aromatic frozen dairy dessert originating from India.

Lime

Scientific Name
Citrus x aurantiifolia



Plant Characteristics

The Lime is a medium-sized shrub or a small tree that can grow up to 4 m tall. The flowers are small, fragrant, and whitish with a purple tint. The small round fruits turn from green to pale yellow when they ripen.

Cultivation and Plant Care

The Lime can be grown on well-draining soil, under full sun conditions with moderate watering. It is usually propagated by seed or grafting.

Uses

The Lime fruit can be used to add flavour to meat and fish dishes, often in the form of pickles and sauces. The fruit can be preserved in brine or vinegar, and its juice is also often used in various types of beverages.

Custard Apple

Scientific Name
Annona squamosa



Plant Characteristics

The Custard Apple is a small tree that can grow up to 10 m tall. It has fragrant yellowish-green flowers that hang downwards. The fruits are round with a knobby surface and turn from light green to dark purplish-brown when ripe. The pulp is white, surrounding black inedible seeds.

Cultivation and Plant Care

The Custard Apple can be grown on a variety of soil types with good drainage, ranging from dry to fertile loamy soils, under full sun conditions with moderate watering. It is usually propagated by seed or grafting.

Uses

The Custard Apple can be consumed raw and is described to have a creamy taste. In Malaya, the pulp is added into desserts such as milk and ice cream for its flavour.

Malay Gooseberry

Scientific Name
Phyllanthus acidus



Plant Characteristics

The Malay Gooseberry is a small tree that can grow up to 9 m tall. It has small reddish-brown inflorescence. The fruits are small and grow in clusters, turning a pale yellow when they ripen.

Cultivation and Plant Care

The Malay Gooseberry tree can be grown on a variety of soil types, ranging from moist and well-draining to fertile loamy, under full sun conditions with moderate watering. It can be propagated by seed.

Uses

The Malay Gooseberry fruit is consumed raw and dipped in sugar to counterbalance its tart taste. It can also be cooked to make into relishes or pickled in salt.

Guava

Scientific Name
Psidium guajava



Plant Characteristics

The Guava is a small tree that can grow up to 10 m tall. The upper surface of its leaves is smooth whilst the lower surface is covered with soft hairs. Its flowers are white and fragrant. Guava fruits are usually round, egg or pear-shaped.

Cultivation and Plant Care

The Guava can be grown on a variety of soil types, ranging from sandy to clayey soils, under full sun conditions with moderate watering. It is usually propagated by seed or stem cutting.

Uses

The Guava fruit can be consumed raw or used as an ingredient in beverages such as fruit juice and smoothies. It can also be included in desserts like sherbet and jelly. In Southeast Asia, the fruit is enjoyed as a snack marinated with preserved plums or *sambal*.

Soursop

Scientific Name
Annona muricata



Plant Characteristics

The Soursop is a shrub or small tree that can grow up to 10 m tall. The leaves are glossy and yellow cone-shaped flowers occur along the trunk and branches and emit a pungent odour. The ripened fruits are dark green and covered with soft spines.

Cultivation and Plant Care

The Soursop plant can be grown on most soil types with good drainage, under full sun to semi-shade conditions, and with moderate watering. It can be propagated by seed and grafting.

Uses

The flesh of the Soursop fruit has a stringy texture and can be eaten raw. It is described to have a similar flavour profile to a strawberry and apple mixture. The fruit can be used as an ingredient in desserts or beverages commonly sold at our local hawker centre drink stalls, such as a blended fruit smoothie.

Kedondong

Scientific Name
Spondias dulcis



Plant Characteristics

The Kedondong is a small tree that can grow up to 12 m tall. Its flowers are small and white and grow in clusters. The fruits are round or egg-shaped and ripen from green to golden yellow, with a crispy pulp.

Cultivation and Plant Care

The Kedondong tree can be grown on well-draining soils, under full sun conditions with moderate watering. It can be propagated by seed or grafting.

Uses

The ripe fruits of the Kedondong can be consumed raw or cooked to add flavour to soup, and even made into juice. The unripe fruits can be pickled and are also used in the local Malay dish *rojak*. The young leaves are also consumed raw, steamed, or cooked with meat.

White Mulberry

Scientific Name
Morus alba



Plant Characteristics

The White Mulberry is a small tree that can grow up to 15 m tall. The leaves are glossy and can be hairless or rough with small, raised dots on the upper surface. The leaves' lower surface is hairless or hairy along the veins. The oblong, fleshy fruits are black, pink or white.

Cultivation and Plant Care

The White Mulberry can be grown on a variety of soil types, ranging from moist and well-draining to fertile loamy, under full sun conditions with moderate watering. It can be propagated by seed.

Uses

The fruit of the White Mulberry can be consumed raw, and is described to have a sweet and tart taste. It is usually used as an ingredient in pastries such as pies or flavourings in desserts like sorbet and ice cream.