



GUAVA

(Psidium guajava)

Guava is indigenous to the West Indies and tropical and subtropical America. It grows at altitudes from sea level up to 1500 m and in wet areas.

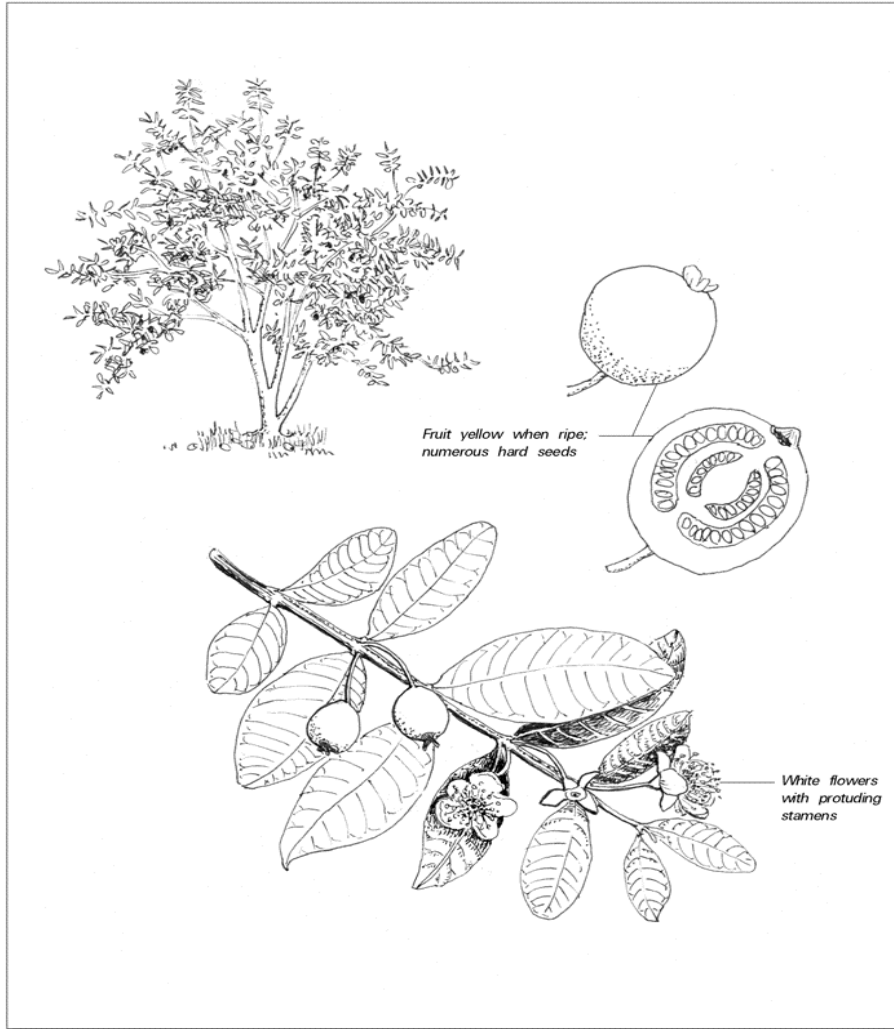
This tree seldom grows much higher than 7 m. The bark is shiny and smooth and the branches start near the ground. The oblong leaves are 5-7 cm in length, smooth above and hairy below. The flowers are small, white and sweet-smelling. The fruit is round, oval or pear-shaped. The unripe fruit is yellow or light green. The ripe fruit has a yellow skin and the flesh yellowish or pink.

The fruits of some varieties are sweet and eaten raw. Others are sour and the pulp used to make jellies and guava cheese. The juice is used to flavour cakes and ice-cream.

In some countries the leaves and green fruit are used for dyeing and tanning. In Jamaica the wood which is very hard is used for making handles of tools and other implements.

GUAVA (*Psidium guajava*)

Family: Myrtaceae	Species: <i>Psidium guajava</i>	Author: Linnaeus
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Height: 7m	Habitat: Sea level-1500m	Persistence: Evergreen
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