



STAR APPLE

(*Chrysophyllum cainito*)

This attractive fruit tree is native in the Greater Antilles and grows from an altitude of 30 to 500 m. It grows to a height 20 m.

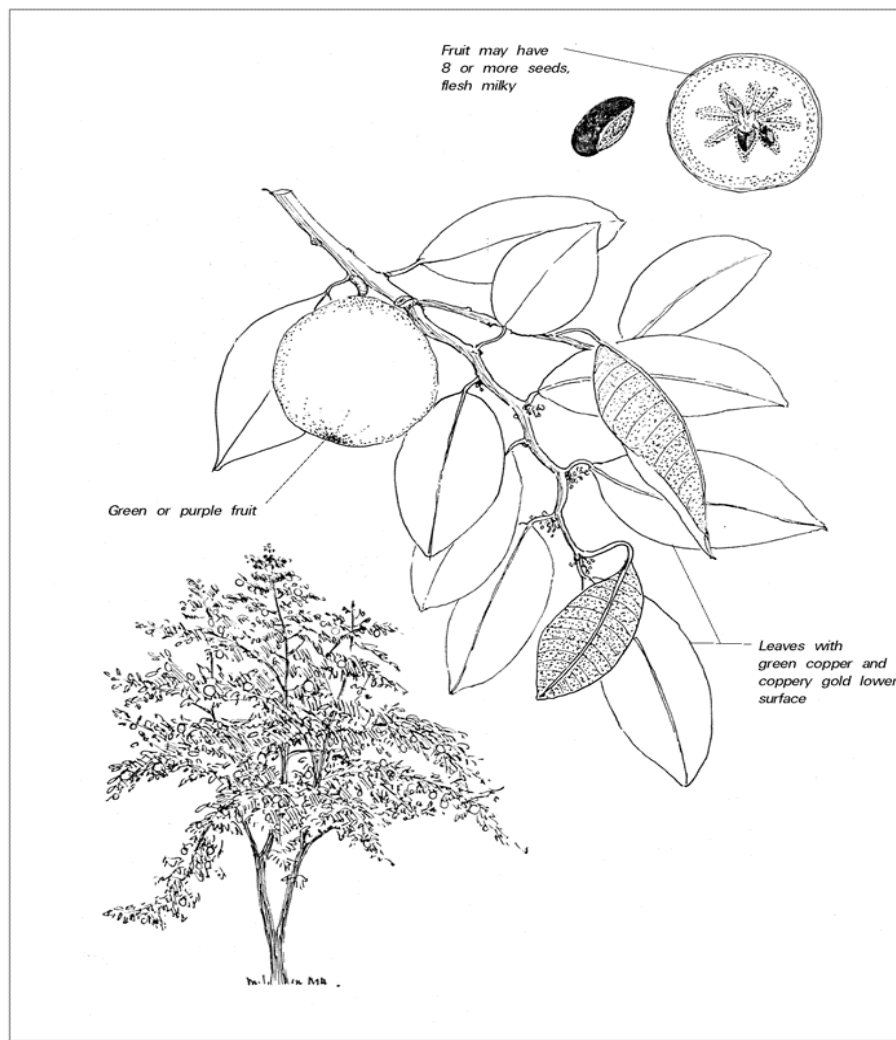
Star apple leaves are pointed at both ends. The uppersides are dark green and shiny while the undersides are bronze-gold and velvety. The leaves are between 7 and 16 cm long.

The tree produces small, fragrant, greenish yellow or purplish flowers in August to September. The fruit is round, smooth and is about 5-7 cm in diameter. It is either purple or green, and ripens from November through March.

If the fruit is sliced through the centre the pattern of black seeds in their thick transparent covering resembles a star against the rest of the fruit pulp; hence the name star apple. A white sticky substance sometimes oozes from the skin of the star apple when it is cut. The fruit is tasty and combined with the pulp of an orange makes an excellent dessert which is called “matrimony”.

STAR APPLE (*Chrysophyllum cainito*)

Family: Sapotaceae	Species: <i>Chyoophyllum cainito</i>	Author: Linnaeus
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Height: 20m	Habitat: 30-500m	Persistence: Evergreen
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