

Strawberry guava

Psidium cattleianum

KEY FEATURES



- Introduced widely as an ornamental
- Displaces native plants and threatens their survival and ecosystem resilience
- Spread through mail-order websites or seed catalogues
- Reproduces easily by seeds and suckers. Seeds spread down slopes, along river edges, dispersed after being eaten by mammals (feral pigs, rodents, monkeys) and fruit-eating birds
- Flowers fragrant, usually single, rarely grouped in 2-3. Four-five white petals are rounded, 5–6 mm diameter. Many stamens, and a greenish disc-shaped stigma
- Fruit is round-oval, 1.5-4 cm diameter. Unripe skin is dark green, ripening to red-purple or sulfur-yellow
- Pulp is soft, whitish with 2-100 seeds. Seeds are 2-3 mm long, and yellowish
- Stem and branches are smooth, pinkish, greenish or greyish brown. Bark peels off in small papery flakes
- Young leaves and twigs are red becoming glossy, waxy and green
- See additional notes for growth habit



PATHWAYS

✓ shipping

✓ horticulture

✓ mail-order seeds

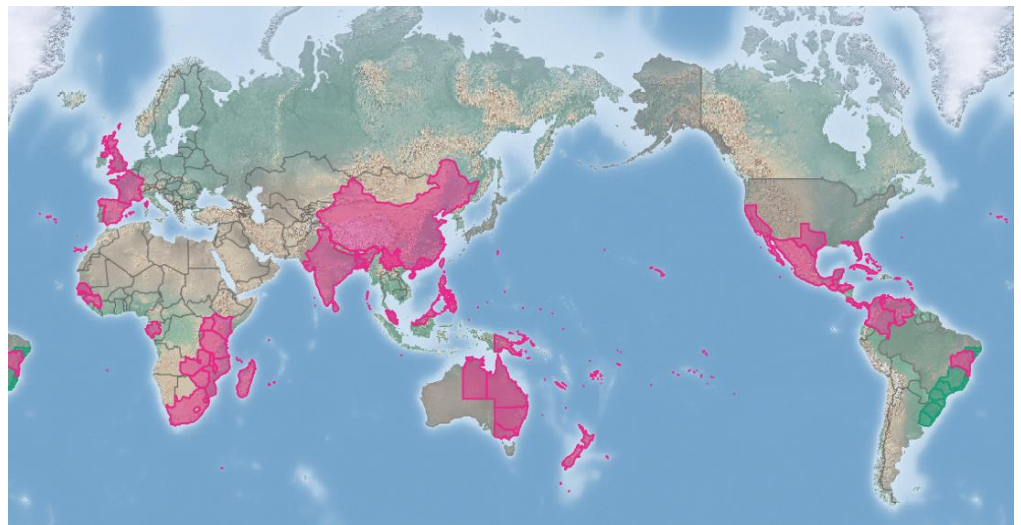
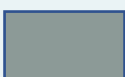
Introduced



Native



Origin not recorded



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IMPACTS



Environment

Disrupts native ecosystems, reducing natural resilience. Particularly harmful in fragile island rainforests that provide habitats for endemic species. Considered the most serious invader in Hawai'i rainforests, Réunion and Mauritius



Health

Not reported



Society & Culture

Not reported



Economy

Can be used as a fruit crop, but benefits outweighed impacts as it can invade pastures and is a host for several fruit fly species

DISTRIBUTION

Native range native to south-east Brazil and northern Uruguay

Introduced range widespread throughout the tropics and subtropics and naturalized almost everywhere it has been introduced, particularly in rainforests and on island ecosystems in the Indian and Pacific Ocean

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The form of the trees depends on the environment. In full sunlight, it is a slow growing evergreen shrub, 2-4 m tall and often branching from the base with an overall round shape. Under shaded conditions it is straight and branches weakly and can reach 8 m tall

INFORMATION SOURCES (click links for more)

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Text and map *Psidium cattleianum* (Strawberry guava) – CABI
<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/45135>

