

## SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) News No. 23.5: Taiwanese guava

**1. Description:** Taiwanese guava was introduced from Taiwan. It is best to plant grafted seedling for early harvest. Grafted tree has a short, solid tree trunk and forms branches early. Taiwanese guava is 2-3m in average height with 2-2.5m canopy diameter. First year fruits can weigh from 250 to 300g per fruit. Fruit has light green skin when ripening. It is brittle, has few seeds and sweet taste. The tree bears two harvests of fruits per year: the first harvest is from March to April; the second harvest is from July to August.

**2. Planting area and planting season:**

- The tree adapts well in many areas of Vietnam. It can be planted around home gardens, around the edge of a fish pond, in field and low hill. It is not suitable to grow guava in high altitude areas which often have cold weather.

- Taiwanese guava can be planted throughout the year but spring will be the best time for better growth .



**3. Planting and tending:**

**3.1 Planting and tending young plants:**

- Planting at the interval of 3x3m in flat land or 4x4m in sloping land.

-Preparing planting holes with the side of 40x40x40cm or 60x60x60cm 1-2 months before planting; apply 5-10kg composted manure, 100g urea, 100g potassium and 2kg phosphate in each hole, fill up holes with soil and mix well, then covered the hole with soil up to the ground level.

- After planting trees in holes, trim the leaves to prevent wilting, water well for good recovery of roots.

*\* Regularly check to cut off all the shoots growing from the rootstocks.*



- Making fence to protect trees and watering to keep the soil moist everyday.

### 3.2 Tending developed trees:

- Pruning and shaping: First pruning: cutting off the top of tree when it gets 60-80cm in height for easy harvest and stimulating branch development. Second pruning: after branches reached 30-40cm in height, cutting off their tops to stimulate second branching. Third pruning: cutting off small and thin branches, branches growing over leaf canopy and branches infected with insect pests and diseases every year after harvesting fruit.

- Fertiliser application: + 4 times in the first year with 100-200g super phosphate for each tree at each time. The first fertiliser application should be carried out one month after planting.

+ Applying 100-300g super phosphate/tree/month when the tree starts fruiting until fruit ripening.

Method: Sprinkle the fertilisers on the soil around the foot of a tree, spread them to the edge of the tree canopy and then water to dissolve fertiliser. If the soil is dry, in this case, people need to hoe up the face of the soil around the trees and then dissolve the fertiliser in water to water the plants.

-Annually, apply supplemental fertilisers as follows: prepare a furrow sized 20x30cm around a tree at 50-100cm apart from the base of the tree and then add the fertilisers into the furrow before covering with soil, mulching with dry weed and watering. Additionally, apply composted manure at a rate of 50-100kg for each tree. We can use the liquefied fertiliser from biogas systems to water the plants 2-3 times per week in order to improve nutritious status of the soil.



- Cover the fruits with plastic bags to prevent the damage caused by insects.
- Regularly weed and clean around the trees to enable good light for the development of the trees, good flowers and good fruits.

#### 4. Pest and disease

##### control:

- If aphids, leaf eating caterpillars or fruit flies appear, spray Sherpa 0.2-0.3%, Trebon 0.2%, or using biological bait such as Vizubon,...

- Control downy mildew or fruit spots disease by spraying Ridomil 0.2%, Anvil 0.2%.

- Avoid using fresh fertiliser or wasted water to irrigate the trees.



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