Feijoa sellowiana: Feijoa

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Introduction

Feijoa sellowiana, or Pineapple Guava, is a gray-green evergreen shrub or tree (depending on pruning) which produces small, tasty fruit in late summer and early fall. The plants can be pruned to form a hedge or a small tree and will withstand several degrees below freezing. It is native to South America. The plant is not used nor is it commonly available in the eastern U.S.

General Information

Scientific name: Feijoa sellowiana
Pronunciation: fay-JOE-uh sell-oh-wee-AY-nuh
Common name(s): Feijoa, Pineapple Guava
Family: Myrtaceae

USDA hardiness zones: 8A through 11 (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Invasive potential: has been evaluated using the IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas (Fox et al. 2005). This species is not documented in any undisturbed natural areas in Florida. Thus, it is not considered a problem species and may be used in Florida.
Uses: specimen; screen; hedge; fruit
Availability: not native to North America

Description

Height: 10 to 15 feet
Spread: 10 to 15 feet
Crown uniformity: irregular
Crown shape: spreading, upright/erect, round
Crown density: dense  
Growth rate: moderate  
Texture: medium  

**Foliage**  
Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)  
Leaf type: simple  
Leaf margin: entire  
Leaf shape: ovate, elliptic (oval)  
Leaf venation: pinnate  
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen  
Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches, 2 to 4 inches  
Leaf color: green  
Fall color: no color change  
Fall characteristic: not showy  

Figure 3. Foliage

**Flower**  
Flower color: white/cream/gray, red  
Flower characteristics: showy  

Figure 4. Flower

**Fruit**  
Fruit shape: oval  
Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches  
Fruit covering: fleshy  
Fruit color: green, yellow  
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

Figure 5. Fruit

**Trunk and Branches**  
Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns  
Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure  
Breakage: resistant  
Current year twig color: gray, green  
Current year twig thickness: thin, medium  
Wood specific gravity: unknown  

**Culture**  
Light requirement: partial sun or partial shade, full sun  
Soil tolerances: sand; loam; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained; well-drained  
Drought tolerance: high  
Aerosol salt tolerance: high  

**Other**  
Roots: not a problem  
Winter interest: no  
Outstanding tree: no  
Ozone sensitivity: unknown  
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: unknown  
Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases  

**Use and Management**  
Propagation is done by seeds and by cuttings.

**Pests and Diseases**  
No pests or diseases are of major concern.

**Literature Cited**  