

FGCU Food Forest

Plant Database

Pitomba (*Eugenia Luschnathiana*)

Quick Facts

Origin: Brazil
Family: Myrtaceae
Description: The fruit has an apricot flavor and color.
Harvest: Fruit, May - July
Damage Temp: 28 F



General Description: Aromatic bright orange-yellow fruit dangle in masses, like small ornaments among the dense dark green foliage, giving this tree a full appearance. The refreshing golden fruit is soft and apricot-like in texture with a juicy and mildly acidic flavor. Native to Brazil, Pitomba is a cousin to the Lychee and Longan and no more evident than when you peel it to reveal the translucent whitish soft flesh contained inside. With a texture so soft and a flavor so wonderful, they are bound to be addictive.

- **Native Origin:** Pitomba Trees can be grown in all 50 states simply by bringing indoors before temps drop below 40 degrees and providing lots of light. Most tropical fruit trees like Pitomba Trees are very fast growing and easier to maintain than domestic fruit trees. Below are a few brief tips for successful growth both indoors and out.
- **Harvesting Techniques:** Pitomba Trees are fast growing and require space to stretch out, so plant your rows on 18 foot centers or for individual trees choose a location at least 10 feet from other trees or shrubs. Pitomba Trees grow very well in containers as long as you provide an adequate size pot for root development. Select a pot 18-24 plus inches in diameter and 20 plus inches in height, with adequate drain holes. Glazed pots require far less watering than raw terracotta pots due to their porous nature. A well-draining soil is of primary importance as Pitomba Trees roots do not like to be wet and will rot if allowed to sit in water for extended periods. A mixture of soil, sand and perlite is highly recommended for proper drainage.
- **Season of Harvest:** May through July.
- **Culinary Uses:** It is used in jams, jellies, and other preserves by Brazilians. Pitomba is considered an acid fruit, and it can be resinous as well if picked too early.

Pitomba

Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Plantae

(unranked): Angiosperms

(unranked): Eudicots

(unranked): Rosids

Order: Sapindales

Family: Sapindaceae

Genus: *Talisia*

Species: *T. esculenta*

Sources

<http://botanicalgrowersnetwork.net/znetsol/1-ProductPages/T1g/EUG-LUS/pop.htm>

<http://www.daleysfruit.com.au/fruit%20pages/Pitomba.htm>