





Chilean guava (NZ Cranberry – *Ugni molinae*/*Myrtus ugni*)

Type	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Height x Width (metres)	Spacing (metres)	Pollinator	Soil Type	Sun	Moisture	Shelter	Plant	Harvest
	E	1 x 1	1.5	N				Y	Autumn	Autumn

Site

- Needs some sun, but tolerates a little shade – a good bush for placing around taller fruit trees.
- More cold tolerant than Cherry Guava.
- Not fussy about soil.

Care

- Very easy to grow, no special care needed.
- Plant in autumn so it gets established before new growth starts in spring.
- Self-fertile.

Training & pruning

- Very good for growing in containers – if you like topiary, you can grow it on a short stem and clip it as a ball.
- Also good grown as a low hedge – slow growing, so patience is needed.
- Grows as a tangle of small branches, with fruit throughout the bush.
- Thin out some branches occasionally to make picking the fruit easier, and remove old or broken twigs.

Harvest

- Bears fruit in the first year – small, highly scented, wine-coloured berries that can be eaten directly from the bush (a favourite with children).
- Doesn't store well, so make juice from the excess, or cook for desserts and jellies.

Plants for free

From seed

- Soak seeds in water for 24 hours to soften the seed coat.
- Sow into warm seed-raising mix – only cover the seed very lightly.

Hardwood cuttings

- In autumn, take a shoot with a 'heel' from this season's growth.
- Insert it into a pot of gritty compost and keep it moist in a sheltered, shady place during the winter.
- Plant out in spring when it shows new growth.

