

Feijoas - A Homegrown Favourite

Being a South Islander by birth, it wasn't until I moved to the North Island that I had my first real taste of this homegrown favourite. feijoa. ...what is that fruit said I?

Well as it turns out the humble feijoa is one of the easiest fruits to grow here in the BOP, rewarding you with masses of delicious fruit from late March through until June - just when there is not a lot of other fruit around.

They are one of the hardiest of trees, surviving in hot and windy spots, even near the coast. They will also withstand light frosts and are often used as hedges, thus doubling their use -shelter and fruit together. You can't go wrong.

In addition, feijoas can be grown successfully in pots. Make sure that the pot has a volume of 20 litres or more, use a good quality mix like Daltons Premium Tub or Potting Mix and fertilize through the season with a slow release fertilizer such as Osmocote. Ensure that you don't let the pot dry out in the summer months.

Feijoas don't need much pruning. Every second year the tree can be thinned or kept to the height that you desire. Do this after the fruit is harvested in early winter. If you have a hedge, don't be afraid to cut it back hard. They will come away again.

To get the best crops, I would advise planting several named varieties of feijoa's together. This way they will pollinate one another and you will increase your fruiting period and yield.

At Décor Gardenworld we recommend varieties such as:

- **Unique** which is an early fruiting self -fertile type with large crops of medium sized smooth skinned soft and juicy fruit.
- **Apollo** has very large fruit with good flavour and storage life. It is semi self -fertile and midseason fruiting.
- **Golden Goose** is a very large fruiting type with a smooth green skin and lovely jelly like flesh. Plant with another variety like Mammoth.
- **Kakapo** is medium sized with an abundance of sweet and juicy fruit. Plant with another variety like Unique.
- **Triumph** is a late season variety with medium fruit, firm skin and good flavour. Plant with another variety too.
- **Mammoth** has medium to large oblong shaped fruit later in the season and stores well. Plant with another variety like Unique.
- **Wiki Tu** is a small growing tree that fruits in about May with very large thin skinned fruit. Ideal for a small garden.

Did you know that it is birds that pollinate feijoas? So don't panic when you see them hopping around in the flowers in spring and summer.

Generally the fruit is ripe when it falls off.

Great for desserts, jam, chutney and eating fresh. YUM

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