



PASSIFLORA LIGULARIS - SWEET GRANADILLA, MOUNTAIN GRANADILLA, GRANADITA, GRANADILLA DE CHINA, PARCHITA AMARILLA, PARCHA DULCE, PARCHA IMPORTADA, PO, MARASCUJA-URUCU, EN, GRENADELLE, GRENADILLE DOUCE, GRENADILLE DE MONTAGNE. -

Native to Central and western South America, from Mexico down to western Bolivia to south-central Peru. In its natural range, it is both wild and cultivated at elevations of 3,000 to 8,850 ft (900-2,700 m), thriving in the subtropical cooler air at these elevations. It is not fond of intense heat and prefers high humidity. In other words, a good British summer.

Passiflora ligularis is a strong growing and vigorous vine that will rapidly cover a trellis with its large, exotic, deeply-veined, heart-shaped leaves and very showy fragrant flowers, with white to light pink petals and sepals and spectacular long filaments that are striped with white and purple.

But it is the fruit you will want to grow this for; massive yellow passionfruit, with a thin but hard brittle rind and inside an unusual gourmet treat of greyish-coloured, aromatic and delicately-flavoured sweet pulp tasting somewhat like a mild grape. In the UK it is unlikely to flower in its first year and you will therefore need to bring it in under cover at the end of September/beginning of October and protect it throughout the winter. If you don't have a conservatory or heated greenhouse keep it on a light and warm windowsill until the following spring, planting out when all danger of frosts has passed into a well-drained bed that has had plenty of well-rotted manure added to it in the winter and been pre-warmed during the spring by placing black plastic sheeting over it as a mulch. Water well throughout the growing season and feed it plenty of potash to encourage fruiting. It can also be grown with a restricted root run in a large 12 inch pot will and this will also help to encourage flowering and fruiting.

Granadilla can survive a degree or two of a very mild frost but why risk it ?

Soak the seed for 12 hours in warm water and sow in a seed tray enclosed in a plastic bag. Give bottom heat if you have heating cables or, if not, place in a warm light spot and once germinated, transplant into individual pots once the seedlings have their first leaves. Keep humid by spraying whilst they are still small.