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Granadilla

(*Passiflora quadrangularis* L.)



agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Background

Origin

It is native to tropical America, although the actual place of origin is unknown. It was growing in Barbados in 1750 and is present in several other Caribbean Islands and in Bermuda.

Climatic and soil requirements

Granadillas prefer moderate temperatures throughout the year and are sensitive to severe frost. The average maximum monthly temperature should not exceed 29 °C and the minimum should not fall below 5 °C. Deep soil preparation is important because the crop develops shallow root systems in compacted soils. Thorough soil preparation will also improve drainage. This is very important, because granadillas are sensitive to excessively wet soil conditions. Clay soils should be avoided.

Uses

The flesh of the ripe fruit, with the inner skin removed, is cut up and added to papaya, pineapple and banana slices in fruit salads and seasoned with lemon or lime juice. It is cooked with sugar and eaten as dessert. The juice strained from both is combined with sugar and lemon juice and boiled until a gel forms. The pulp yields a most agreeable juice for cold drinks. The young, unripe fruit may be boiled and served as a vegetable, or may be cut up, breaded and cooked in butter with milk, pepper and nutmeg. In the tropics the fruit is valued as antiscorbutic and stomachic.

Cultivation practices

Planting

Raise the seeds in a seedling tray. The seedlings should be ready for transplanting about 3 to 6 months after sowing of the seed. Generally plant spacings of 1 to 2 m are used.

Fertilisation

Nitrogen can usually be added at 300 g/100 l of water, zinc oxide at 200 g/100 l of water, Solubor at 100 g/100 l of water. Spray especially new growth during spring. These recommendations are only general guidelines and should be supported by soil and leaf analyses.

Irrigation

Granadillas prefer a well-distributed rainfall of not less than 1 200 mm/year (irrigation can be used as a supplement in low rainfall areas).

Weed control

Recommended chemicals may be used according to the precautions on the label. Hand weeding is also recommended.

Pest and disease control

Diseases may be controlled by planting on a well-drained site in virgin soil, or sterilised soil or growth medium, whereas pests may be controlled by scouting and when discovered, recommended pesticides may be used.

