Psidium guajava or guava, native from Mexico to Peru, is a small tree with distinctive 4-angled branches and peeling bark. Their size in culture is easily controlled in containers, but in nature, they will reach a height of 12-14 feet. Our plant in the greenhouse is 4 feet tall in a 5 gallon container and 10 years old. Plants flower in the spring and summer: White blooms are 2½ inches across and usually last one day. Small fruits about 2 inches in diameter follow them. The fruit can be used to make preserves.

Psidium guajava need full sun to partial shade with a rich well-drained soil (in our case, 2 parts peat moss to 2 parts loam to 1 part sand). Plants are kept moist during the growing season. Fertilize weekly with a balanced fertilizer. During winter rest, temperatures should be kept at 55°-60° F (13-15°C). Cooler temperatures will cause the plant to lose its leaves. Trimming and repotting should be done in early spring before new growth starts.

Psidium guajava are best propagated from seed. Seeds usually germinate in 7-14 days at 65° F (18°C).