

CHILEAN GUAVA



- Ugni molinae is more commonly known by the name of Chilean Guava, or strawberry myrtle.
- It is an upright, bushy, evergreen shrub that hails from Chile and Argentina. The plant can reach around 1 - 1.5m tall, and around 1m wide.
- The plant is tolerant of most soil types, but does like the soil to be moist and well-drained. It likes full sun or partial shade, and while it is hardy, it prefers a sheltered position as cold winds dry the plant out too much. It can tolerate a few degrees of frost if it is in a sheltered location, and if you grow it in a large pot then you have the option of moving it if the weather is particularly cold. Alternatively, you can wrap it in fleece if you can't move it.
- It has white / pink bell-shaped flowers in the spring, followed by reddish-purple berries around 1cm wide that ripen into the autumn. The flowers themselves are very fragrant, and the fruit has a strawberry flavour. They can be eaten raw or cooked.
- Chilean guavas were said to be one of Queen Victoria's favourite fruits, and although she tried to promote it, it remained relatively unknown to the British