

exhibit little bud failure. Fruit have averaged about 110 grams and 2½ inches diameter where fruit were thinned to 6 to 8 inches apart. Fruit shape is nearly round and flesh contains little red on non-stressed trees. Flesh is nonmelting and clingy with a little separation from the stone when soft ripe. Pits have shown little tendency to split, even when crop loads were low.

Leaves have small, reniform petiolar glands. Flowers are showy and pink. Anthers are mostly yellow with little

anthocyanin and pollen is bright yellow and abundant. Leaves and fruit are moderately resistant to bacterial spot.

A plant patent has been filed for 'UFGold' and a propagation agreement is available through Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32443. Budwood is non-indexed, but Florida stonefruit germplasm has been found to be mostly virus free in countries that routinely quarantine and index.

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'Gitit' a New Surinam Cherry Cultivar

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Origin

The Surinam cherry or Pitanga — *Eugenia uniflora* L. (E. michelii Lam.), originates in the coastal region of Brazil, South America. The fruit is being collected in forests and much appreciated. From its native home it was carried by the Portuguese to most of the tropical and subtropical countries. Pitanga is being grown in many regions in backyards and as hedges, commercial plantations exist mostly in Brazil. In the United States its culture is limited to Florida and California.

Pitanga is usually a broad compact shrub, but in Brazil it sometimes becomes a small tree up to 8m. in height. The foliage is deep green and some-what glossy, the new growth being of rich wine-color. The branchlets are thin, the leaves ovate in outline acuminate at the apex and rounded at the base. The small white flowers are in large groups. Flowering season is during all spring and summer months. The fruit is oblate in form, eight ribbed, about 25mm. in diameter and deep red color when finally ripe. The

flesh is soft, juicy and with aromatic sub-acid flavor. Usually there is one large round seed, but sometimes two hemispherical ones. Fruit harvested unripe is not ripening well and therefore should be harvested when fully mature. Fruit reaching this stage of ripening drops almost immediately which is one of the major problems in the cultivation of this species.

The Pitanga succeeds both in tropical and subtropical climate. It is sensitive — but not extremely — to frost. The flowers are very sensitive to hot spells. During the fruit growing season the tree demands constant water supply, more than most other fruit trees. It is possible that the low fruit-set is connected to low air humidity. The Pitanga grows well in many soils especially in heavy waterlogged areas. In calcareous soils Pitanga suffers from iron chlorosis.

Pitanga fruits are rich in acids, sugars and pectin. Their uses are numerous. As a fresh fruit it is delicious. The fruits are used for alcoholic drink, for jelly with distinctive flavor and for sherbet and syrup.

'Giti' seedling was selected in backyard in Naharia, northern Israel. It was grafted and compared to three other commercial cultivars: 'Necha,' 'Lolita' and '404'. 'Giti' was found superior to all of them.

Description

Canopy is dense, the flesh bright-red. The fruit is round but somewhat pear-shaped. The peel almost smooth. Fruit weight varies according to the yield from 5 to 12g. In years of heavy yield the fruit is quite small. Seed size is 18% of total weight. Fruit color is blood red. The taste varies from sweet-sour to sour-sweet in contrast to the other sour culti-

vars. It tends to be more sour in heavy soils. The flesh is firm to juicy according to the stage of ripening. Flavor is very mild in contrast to all other cultivars with strong-sharp flavor.

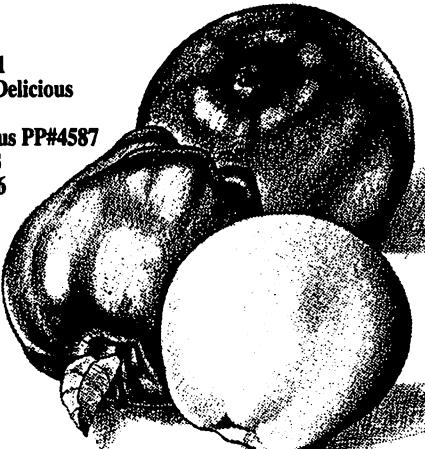
'Giti' being relatively sweet differ from other Pitanga cultivars by the option to harvest the fruit not so close to maturity, but even three days before. Shelf-life is three days and storage duration in domestic refrigerator is two weeks.

'Giti' is adapted to all types of soils except highly calcareous. In very heavy soils after rainy winter, production is very low. Few small commercial plots have been planted in various parts of Israel.

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