



Guyabano Research

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Characteristics of Guyabano

Guyabano (*Annona muricata*), also known as soursop, is a tropical evergreen fruit tree widely grown in the Philippines for its soft, fragrant white pulp and distinct sweet-tart flavor. The fruit is prized for fresh consumption, juices, and traditional wellness uses. Thriving in warm, humid lowland climates, Guyabano begins fruiting within 3–5 years and can be harvested several times a year. Its creamy texture and refreshing acidity make it a versatile crop for both home use and local markets.

Culinary Uses (Dishes)

- Guyabano ice cream or sorbet
- Pastries and tarts (filling or puree)
- Fruit salads and mixed tropical bowls
- Guyabano jam or marmalade
- Cheesecake topping or swirl
- Yogurt or panna cotta flavoring
- Guyabano mousse or custard

Drinks

- Fresh Guyabano juice
- Guyabano shake or smoothie
- Fermented Guyabano drink (homemade)
- Guyabano tea infusion (leaves, traditional)
- Guyabano-lemon cooler
- Guyabano milk drink



Simple Ways to Eat

- Fresh scooped pulp, chilled
- Blended with a little honey
- Frozen pulp as popsicles
- Mixed into oatmeal or cereals
- Added to smoothies with banana
- As a topping for halo-halo
- Puree spread on toast





Nutrients per 100 g (approx.)

- Calories: **66 kcal**
 - Carbohydrates: **16–17 g**
 - Fiber: **3.3 g**
 - Vitamin C: **~20 mg**
 - Potassium: **270 mg**
 - Magnesium: **21 mg**
 - Calcium: **14 mg**
 - Small amounts of B-vitamins (B1, B2, B3)
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Health Benefits (General)

- Supports immunity due to vitamin C
- Provides dietary fiber for digestion
- Natural antioxidants help protect cells
- Potassium contributes to heart and muscle function
- Hydrating and low-fat fruit for energy
- May support overall wellness when included in a balanced diet

Tree Characteristics

Inspiration and Motivation ng Masa

Guyabano is a small to medium tropical evergreen tree reaching **6–10 m** in height with a rounded, moderately open canopy. Leaves are glossy, dark green, and slightly leathery, releasing a mild aroma when crushed. The tree produces large, heart-shaped fruits with soft spines and creamy white pulp. Flowering can occur several times a year under warm, humid conditions. Guyabano is moderately wind-sensitive, prefers well-drained soils, and begins fruiting **3–5 years** after planting.

Root System

- **Type:** Shallow–moderate, lateral-spreading root system
- **Depth:** Majority within the top **30–60 cm** of soil
- **Taproot:** Present in young trees but reduces dominance as lateral roots expand
- **Sensitivity:** Can be damaged by waterlogging and soil compaction



Growing Implications

- **Soil Drainage:** Essential—poor drainage increases root rot risk; avoid heavy clay
- **Mulching:** Helps moisture retention and protects shallow roots
- **Wind Support:** Young trees benefit from staking in exposed areas
- **Irrigation:** Frequent light watering during establishment; deep but not prolonged soaking
- **Shade Compatibility:**
 - **Sunshine demand:** Full sun (minimum **6–8 hours** daily) for best flowering and fruiting
 - **Shade tolerance:** Light partial shade acceptable when young, but **excess shade reduces yield**
- **Intercropping Note:** Avoid deep-root competitors; suitable with coconuts or light-canopy trees

Growing Characteristics Table

Feature	Description
Tree Size	6–10 m height, 3–5 m canopy spread
Growth Rate	Moderate
Sunshine Requirement	Full sun (6–8 hrs/day)
Shade Tolerance	Light partial shade when young; low tolerance as mature
Climate	Tropical, warm & humid (20–32 °C)
Elevation Range	Best below 800 m
Soil Preference	Well-drained loam or sandy loam; pH 5.0–6.5
Spacing	6–7 m between trees
Fruiting Age	3–5 years from planting
Flowering Pattern	Multiple flushes in warm seasons
Water Needs	Regular moisture; avoid waterlogging
Wind Tolerance	Low–moderate; young trees need support

Small Summary

Guyabano is a medium-sized tropical fruit tree with a shallow, spreading root system that requires well-drained soil and full sun for best production. It tolerates light shade while young but declines in yield under dense canopy. Proper spacing, mulching, and protection from strong winds support healthy establishment. With the right conditions, Guyabano begins fruiting in 3–5 years and offers multiple harvest periods in warm, humid climates.



Varieties of Guyabano in the Philippines

Variety / Strain	Type / Use	Characteristics	Remarks
Aguinaldo	Processing-type (sub-acid)	Fruit ~ 1 kg, yellow-green skin, juicy sub-acid pulp, ~ 77.6% edible portion, ~ 70 seeds FAO AGRIS+1	First Philippine cultivar, registered with NSIC. FAO AGRIS Good for juice, puree, processing.
Davao Prolific	Fresh / Commercial	Large fruit (1.73 kg), light green peel, creamy-white, soft flesh, 82.5% edible portion, ~ 82 seeds, ~ 15.4 °Brix UKDR UPLB	Very productive, regular bearer, selected from Davao. UKDR UPLB



There Are Only Two “Varieties”

- According to the *Guyabano Production Guide*, **only two strains are “presently grown”** in a structured / selected way in the Philippines: Aguinaldo and Davao. Scribd
 - CABI also notes “sweet-fruited and sour-fruited varieties” and names *Aguinaldo* and *Davao* as the Philippine representatives. CABI Digital Library
 - There’s no clear public record of many more **commercially registered** cultivars beyond those two, unlike mango or banana where cultivar registration is more widespread.
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Best Local Markets for Guyabano

Here are some of the most important local markets / regions for commercial Guyabano production, based on production guides and statistics:

- **Western Visayas** — One of the top producing regions. Business Diary
- **Region IV-A (Calabarzon)** — Also significant in planted area. Business Diary
- **Cagayan Valley** — Another leader in area under Guyabano. Business Diary
- **Central Visayas** — Listed among the top for production. Business Diary
- **Central Luzon** — Also in top-five producing provinces by area historically. Business Diary

These regions are not necessarily “markets” in the sense of retail, but rather **production hubs**, which often feed into both local fresh markets **and** value-added (juice, puree) processing.

Summary

- There are **very few documented commercial cultivars** of Guyabano in the Philippines — primarily **Aguinaldo** and **Davao Prolific**.
- **Aguinaldo** is favored for processing, while **Davao Prolific** is a high-yield, fresh-market type.
- Major production (and local “markets” for production) are in **Western Visayas, Calabarzon, Cagayan Valley, Central Visayas, and Central Luzon**.



Intercropping Varieties.

✓ Intercropping Good Matches

Companion Tree	Why Compatible	Shade Consideration	Recommended Spacing	Notes
Coconut	High canopy, filtered light, non-aggressive roots	Provides light partial shade , ideal during early years	7–8 m from coconut; 6–7 m between Guyabano rows	Best long-term partner; improves moisture retention
Mangosteen	Slow-growing, shade-loving juvenile phase	Guyabano gives temporary light shade	7–8 m spacing between trees	Works well if Guyabano removed or pruned as mangosteen matures
Bangkok Santol	Deep roots, tall canopy, not heavy competition	Keep open light ; avoid full shading	8–10 m between species	Good for multi-layer orchard; prune to control canopy
Tabon-Tabon (value crop)	Medium canopy, moderate root competition	Plant in filtered sun only	6–7 m spacing	Suitable if soil is well-drained and not waterlogged
Mango (Carabao / Mangga Cebu types)	Tall, spaced canopy, seasonal leaf drop improves soil	Maintain full sun for Guyabano	9–10 m from mango; 6–7 m for Guyabano	Avoid dense mango hedge planting to prevent shade

✗ Not Recommended - Poor Matches

Tree	Reason	Shade Impact	Spacing Issue / Risk
Densely planted mango blocks	Heavy shade + root competition	Severe yield reduction	Only acceptable with wide openings
Large shade-dominant trees (e.g., unmanaged Santol)	Guyabano needs sun after year 2–3	Permanent canopy shading	Pruning required or avoid
Heavy feeder citrus on close spacing (lemon/lime)	Competes for nutrients & shallow moisture	Minimal shade but root conflict	Only viable with 7–8 m spacing and strong fertilization



Banana monocrop style	High humidity + low airflow = fungal risk	Creates too much shade	Works only on edges or temporary establishment
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Sunshine & Shade Guidance

- Guyabano requires **full sun (6–8 hrs/day)** for high yield
- Accepts **light partial shade** only when **young (0–2 years)**
- Excess shade = smaller fruits, poor flowering, fungal issues

General Spacing Rules

- **Guyabano to Guyabano:** 6–7 m
- **Under coconut:** plant midway between trunks (triangular layout)
- Maintain **airflow** in humid zones (Southern Bukidnon advantage)

Summary

Guyabano pairs best with coconuts, Mangosteen, Bangkok Santol, Tabon-Tabon, and well-spaced mango, as these trees either provide compatible light levels or avoid aggressive root competition. During early growth, light shade is beneficial, but long-term production requires full sun. Avoid dense, shading canopies and close-root competitors like citrus planted too tightly. With proper spacing (6–10 m depending on partner), Guyabano performs well in diversified value-fruit systems such as Jessie's Sunshine Farm.

Market Demand & Acceptance

- **Strong local acceptance** as a fresh fruit and for wellness-associated beverages.
- **Growing demand** from processors for **juice, puree, concentrate, and tea leaves**, especially in Mindanao-based MSMEs.
- **Valencia City** serves as a **regional trading and consolidation hub**, supplying Malaybalay, Cagayan de Oro, and Northern Mindanao outlets.
- Consumer interest is rising due to **health positioning**, with prices more stable than seasonal fruits like mango.
- Limited large-scale production in Bukidnon means **supply gaps** and opportunity for consistent farm-grade fruit.



Risks & Challenges

- **Climate sensitivity** in higher elevations (>800 m): slower growth, reduced sweetness.
- **Fruit borer and anthracnose**, especially during wet months—requires sanitation and airflow management.
- **Short shelf-life** (3–5 days fresh), making post-harvest handling critical.
- Market still **less developed** than mango or coconut—volume buyers are fewer.
- **Wind exposure** in open Bukidnon fields can damage young trees; staking needed.
- Price fluctuations when imported processed pulp enters the market.

Opportunities

- Ideal for **diversified value-fruit farming** with coconuts, mangosteen, and santol.
- **Fresh + processed dual market** (juice shops, wellness stores, community processors).
- Potential for **contract supply** to Valencia-based food enterprises and Bukidnon tourist corridors (Dahilayan, Lake Apo).
- Development of **shelf-stable products**: puree packs, frozen pulp, fermented drinks, herbal leaf tea.
- Branding as **Bukidnon highland-grown**—clean image, chemical-reduced production possible.
- Opportunity for **year-round harvest scheduling** due to multiple flowering flushes.

Summary (Southern Bukidnon + Valencia)

Guyabano fits well into **small-to-medium diversified farms** in Southern Bukidnon, especially around **Valencia**, where market access and distribution are strong. Demand is steady and rising, driven by health-oriented consumers and processors, but supply remains limited—creating a favorable entry point. Success depends on **site selection below ~800 m**, strong pest and post-harvest management, and integration into **value-added streams** rather than relying solely on the fresh market. Overall, Guyabano offers a **moderate-to-high opportunity crop** with manageable risks when planted in full sun, well-drained areas, and linked to local buyers.