

Ridgedale

## Passiflora edulis 'Frederick'

Passion fruit is a subtropical plant native to South America. It does well in zones 9 –11, but must be protected from frost in colder areas. They can usually take temperatures down to the upper 20's.

Passion fruit can be grown in containers, but will need to be pruned to keep manageable.

Frederick passion fruit produces a large, 3" oval fruit which is dark purple in color with ripe. They have a sweet/tart flavor and are great for eating fresh. May also be used for flavoring drinks or desserts.

Passion fruit leaves can be used for making a tea for insomnia. Use the leaves fresh or dried and steep for 10 minutes 30 minutes before bed time.

In addition, passion fruit is the host plant for the Gulf Fritillary, a beautiful orange butterfly!



## **Planting**

Dig a planting hole about two to three feet in diameter. Back fill the hole with native soil, add amendments for drainage if you have clay soil.

Set the plant at the same depth it was in the pot. Cover the roots with soil and press firmly to remove air pockets.

Water thoroughly to settle the soil.

After planting, cover the soil with a good mulch, or compost to help keep the soil moist.

Space your Passion fruit plants between 10 to 12 feet apart. Passion fruit plants are vigorous and can grow 20' wide, but can be kept smaller with pruning.

Plant your Passion fruit plant next to a wall or trellis for support.



## **Growing Passion Fruit Plants**

**Location**—Grow in full sun, can be grown in partial shade in very hot areas.

**Soil**—Passion fruit plants need well draining soil. Sandy loom is best, with a pH of 6.5—7.5. Soil should also be rich in organic matter. It is also best to much around the base of the plant.

Water—it is important to keep the soil moist when the plant is producing fruit. Otherwise moderate watering is fine.

Fertilizer—Passion fruit need regular fertilization because they are very vigorous. A good recommended fertilizer is 10-5-20 NPK, and should be applied at 3 pounds per plant, 4 times per year. Do not use a high nitrogen fertilizer for it only result in foliage growth and not fruit.

**Pruning**—Passion fruits are very vigorous and should be pruned to keep manageable.

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