

Passiflora edulis

passion fruit, purple granadilla,
purple water lemon, lilikoi

Passiflora edulis Sims

Family: Passifloraceae

Description: Large liana, grooved stems. Shiny leaves, deeply 3-lobed, up to 7 inches long by 8 inches wide. Flowers 4 inches diameter, purple at base, white at apex, corona filamentous. Fruits yellow, reddish, green or greenish purple, 3.5 inches in diameter, pulp yellow to orange. Cultivated for making juice and other products. [There are two other edible passion fruits. *P. laurifolia* L., yellow granadilla, yellow water lemon, or bell apple, is a liana with simple, leathery leaves, margins entire, 5.5 inches long by 2.5 inches wide, smooth, deciduous. Flowers (see photo, near right) pendant, bell-shaped, 3 inches diameter, sepals and petals 5, white, sometimes with purple splotches, corona with purple bands, filamentous. Fruits yellow, 2.5 inches long by 1.8 inches diameter, gray pulp edible. From the West Indies and S. America, it was introduced into Hawai'i before 1871. Naturalized in forests of Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, and Hawai'i. *P. ligularis* Juss., sweet granadilla (photo, far right), is a liana with round or angled stems, striped. Leaves are ovate to heart-shaped, 8 inches long by 7 inches wide, smooth, margins entire. Flowers pendent, fragrant, bell-shaped, 5 inches diameter, white sometimes tinged with violet. Corona purple banded, filamentous. Mature fruits orange with white specks, 3 inches diameter, pulp white, edible. Native to the Andes. Grown for fruit and ornamental flowers. Occurs in mesic to wet forests in low to mid elevations on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Lana'i, and Hawai'i. First collected on Hawai'i in 1909]⁽⁷⁰⁾. *Passiflora*, passion flower, because the flowers suggested to Spaniards the passion of Christ, i.e., 10 petals for the 10 apostles, the fringed crown representing the crown of thorns, the three styles for the three nails⁽⁵⁹⁾; *edulis*, edible; *laurifolia*, laurel-leaved, *ligularis*, strap-shaped⁽⁵⁾, perhaps a reference to the shape of nectaries on petioles.

Distribution: From Brazil, introduced into Hawai'i by way of Australia about 1880. Troublesome in north-



Passiflora laurifolia, yellow granadilla, yellow water lemon, bell apple



Passiflora ligularis, sweet granadilla

eastern South Africa along forest edges, plantations, and riverbanks⁽²²⁾. [In the Galapagos, *P. edulis* is a problem in dry zones and *P. ligularis* is a problem in humid zones⁽³¹⁾.] Naturalized in mesic to wet forests of Kaua'i, O'ahu, Lana'i, Maui, and Hawai'i.

Environmental impact: Smothers trees and shrubs. Spread by birds and pigs that feed on fruits.

Management: Difficult if growing over non-target plants. Sensitive to triclopyr ester at 10% product in oil applied to individual vines (Pat Bily, TNC). May also be controlled by treating foliage on ground, cutting the stems at base of hosts and treating the weed stump.