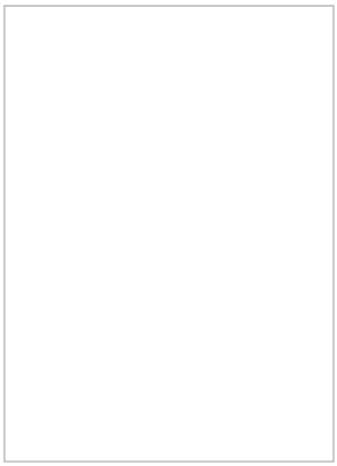
The Limequat



The limequat is a citrofortunella hybrid that is the result of a cross between the key lime and the kumquat, hybridized by Walter Tennyson Swingle in 1909.
It is a small tree that grows into a contained bushy form. The leaves are characteristically citrus-like. The limequat produces an abundance of fruit even at a young age. The fruit is small, oval, greenish yellow and contains seeds or pips. It has a sweet tasting skin and a bitter sweet pulp that tastes similar to limes. The fruit can be eaten whole or the juice and rind can be used to flavor drinks and dishes. It has considerable amounts of vitamin C and is strongly acidic.
This plant is now grown in Japan, Israel, Spain, Malaysia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States in California, Florida, and Texas. The fruit can be found, in small quantities, during the fall and winter months in the United States, India and Japan.
Limequats can be grown indoors or outdoors providing the temperature stays between 10 ï C to 30 ï C (50 ï F to 86 ï F). They are fairly small and can be planted in containers or pots, in well-drained fertile soil. Plants grow fairly slowly and flower and fruit between 5 7 months and rest for 7 5 months.
Limequats are more cold hardy than limes but less cold-hardy than kumquats.
Limequats are used in cocktails, fruit salads, they can be candied whole, they can be cooked if the seeds are removed as they impart a bitter taste, and they can also be made into conserves.

Category: Citrus
Families: Rutaceae
Genus: Citrus
Species: x floridana (Limequat)
Geographical Area of Origin: South-East Asia
Climatic Zones: Sub-tropical, USDA 10 b (Southern Italy and islands)
Habit: Tree
Leaves: Evergreen
Colore Foglie: Verde
Flowering Period: Gennaio / Febbraio / Settembre / Ottobre / Novembre / Dicembre

Flower: Corymb
Colore Fiori: Bianco
Favorite soil: Sub-acid / medium acid / Middle-Dough / Medium soil
Water needs: Medium
Light Exposure: Medium shade / Half shade / Full light / Full sun
Form: Espalier / Pyramid / Tree / Grown as shrub / bush
Colore Frutti: Giallo
Parfumed: yes