

Soursop

Annona muricata



AMINA GREENAWAY

Classification

Kingdom: Plantae-Plants

Class: Magnoliopsida

Subclass: Magnoliidae

Order: Magnoliales

Family: Annonaceae

Genus: Annona

Species: muricata

Common Names: Soursop; Graviola; Guanabana

Relatives: *Annona cherimoya*

Origin and Cultivation

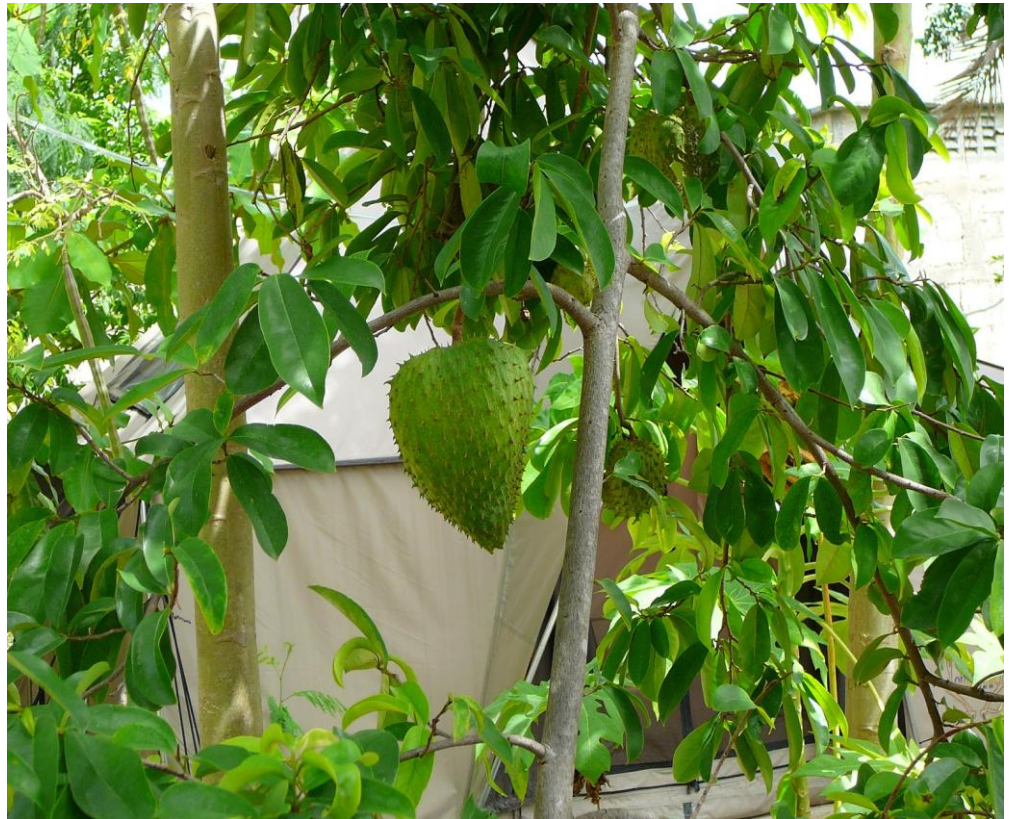
- ▶ Origin: West Indies; Northern South America
- ▶ Wild and cultivated species are found:
 - ▶ West Indies
 - ▶ From southern Mexico to Peru and Argentina
 - ▶ Dominican Republic
 - ▶ Cuba
 - ▶ Puerto Rico
 - ▶ The Bahamas
 - ▶ Colombia
 - ▶ Northeastern Brazil

Origin and Cultivation



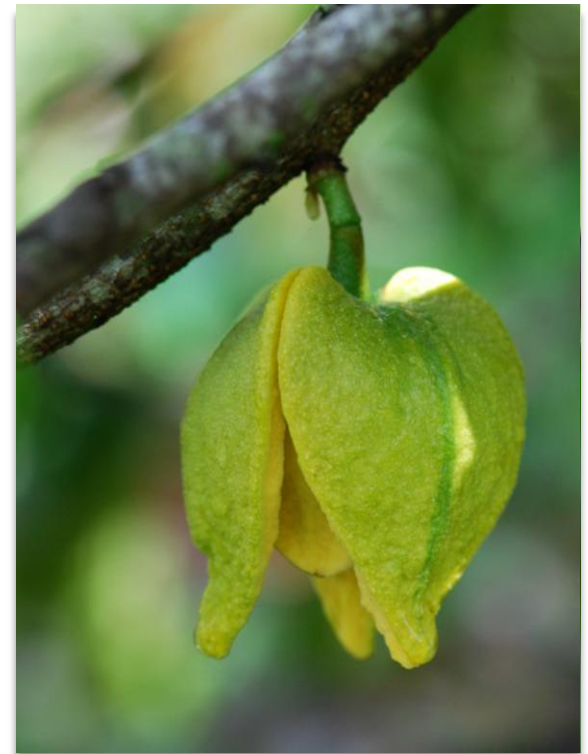
Features of cultivation

- ▶ Best grown in rich, evenly moist but well-drained soils in full sun to part shade.
- ▶ Tolerates average soils.
- ▶ Tree should only be planted outdoors in frost free areas protected from cold winds. Intolerant to frost
- ▶ Lower temperature (in the 70s with 80% relative humidity) improves pollination



Morphology

- ▶ Tree:
 - ▶ bushy and low (7.5m - 9m tall)
 - ▶ glossy green leaves
- ▶ Flower: three yellowish-green outer petals and three dull yellow inner petals
- ▶ Fruit:
 - ▶ rough-skinned
 - ▶ prickly-textured,
 - ▶ oblong fruit
 - ▶ large
 - ▶ have a slightly acidic or sour taste



Some historical facts

- ▶ First described in 1526 by Oviedo (a Spanish historian) as abundant in the West Indies and Northern South America
- ▶ It was spread around the world by Spanish explorers
- ▶ Showed up in Hawaii in 1700s
- ▶ And in Florida in 1879
- ▶ Hindu legend has it that Lord Ram and Hanuman (the monkey god) consumed soursops on their way to Sri Lanka.

Plant uses

- ▶ Fruit
 - ▶ Eaten raw
 - ▶ Juices
 - ▶ Frozen Joys/Ice pops
 - ▶ Ice Cream
 - ▶ Bait in fish traps
- ▶ Leaves
 - ▶ Tea
 - ▶ Alleviate pain
 - ▶ Decoction is lethal to head lice and bedbugs



Plant Uses

- ▶ Bark
 - ▶ Tanning
 - ▶ Fish poison
- ▶ Flower - alleviate catarrh
- ▶ Wood - Ox yokes (does not cause hair loss on neck)

Plant Uses

- ▶ Medicinal:
 - ▶ Diuretic; remedy for hematuria and urethritis
 - ▶ Fever Reduction
 - ▶ 'Sedative'
 - ▶ Swollen feet relief
 - ▶ Eczema alleviation
 - ▶ Aid delivery at childbirth
 - ▶ Remedy for gall bladder trouble, diarrhea, dysentery and indigestion

Use in North America and of Native Americans

- ▶ Studies are being carried out regarding anti cancer activity
- ▶ No real proof as there have been no clinical trials

Toxicity

- ▶ The juice from the seeds are poisonous and irritating and should be avoided.
- ▶ connection between consumption of soursop and 'atypical' forms of Parkinson's disease due to the very high concentration of Annonacin.

