



Urban Harvest  
Gardening for good.

## Passion Fruit

Category:	Semi-tropical vine
Hardiness:	Root hardy if protected
Fruit Family:	N/A
Light:	Partial to full sun
Size:	Varies; climbing vine
Soil:	Well-drained
Planting:	Spring, after danger of frost has passed



The passion fruit is a shallow-rooted, climbing vine, with attractive, deeply lobed foliage. The leaves, stems, and tendrils are tinged with red or purple. Each node on the vine produces a single, fragrant, self-pollinating flower two to three inches wide. The flowers open in the early morning and close at night. The edible fruit is round with a tough rind; it is a waxy dark purple color when ripe.

### Care of Dragon Fruit

**Planting:** Passion vine should be planted in the spring, in partial to full sun. Dig a hole that is twice as wide as the nursery container and slightly shallower than the height of the root ball. Backfill with native soil. Apply 1"-2" of compost and mulch for a total depth of 3"-4".

**Pruning & Training:** The vine is very vigorous so it must be planted next to a fence or even a tall tree since the vine can have many branches and be very long. The longer it gets the more fruit you will have. In some cases, passion fruit is allowed to grow to the tops of a tree where they will find sunlight to flower and fruit in abundance. The vine is lightweight and will not damage the tree, and the fruit falls harmlessly to the ground when it is ripe. Pruning is necessary on small trellises and should be done shortly after harvesting. Cut back all weak growth and 1/3 of vigorous growth. Do not prune out leaves around nodes – they are needed to shade the fruits in hot weather. Pruning can be ignored if the vine is growing into a tree.

### Production:

**Watering:** Keep passion fruit well watered and water more heavily when the vine is close to fruiting. Mulch will help protect the shallow roots from drying.

**Fertilizing:** Apply a balanced, slow release organic fertilizer four times during the growing season.

**Harvesting:** The fruit turns from green to deep purple and falls to the ground in fall when ripe. Harvest either right when it turns purple or after it falls to the ground. Passion fruit can be stored for 2 to 3 weeks at 50° F, but should be washed and dried then placed in bags. It is sweetest when slightly shriveled. The fruit and the juice both freeze well.

**Pests:** Edible passion vine is not bothered by many pests. Spider mites can be a problem during hot, dry weather. Keep the vine well-watered to minimize spider mites. The Gulf Fritillary butterfly is an occasional pest of the vine, however the edible passion fruits are so vigorous that damage is usually minimal. It is seldom necessary to interfere.

**Winter Protection:** Edible passion fruits are less hardy than their ornamental counterparts. They are killed back a few degrees below freezing. Heavy winter mulch and other protective measures around the roots and the first foot of vine is one way to protect the root system. The vine will regrow quickly the following spring.

## Varieties of Passion Vine for the 2018 Sale

### *Novak's*

## Varieties of Passion Fruit for Southeast Texas

**Novak's:** This large vine makes delicious, edible passion fruit. The fruit are green then turn purple when they ripen. The pulp inside is yellowish-orange, sweet, aromatic and delicious. The exotic looking flowers are white with a purple tinged center. Normally root-hardy in Houston winters. Passion fruit puree is a fun addition to many dishes, such as smoothies or cocktails.