

Eugenia uniflora (*E. michelii*)

Myrtaceae

Brazil, West Indies, Tropical America

Common names: **English:** Brazil cherry, Surinam cherry, pitanga.

Ecology: A native of South America introduced to Uganda. Often found near church missions.

Uses: Food (fruit), ornamental, live fence.

Description: An evergreen shrub or small tree 2-3 m high. **BARK:** brown. **LEAVES:** simple and opposite, shiny dark green, oval and pointed, quite small. New leaves deep purple-red. **FLOWERS:** small and solitary with numerous white stamens. **FRUIT:** bright red when ripe. The soft edible fruit is rounded and ridged to 2.5 cm across with hard smooth round seeds inside.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed: Squash fruit and separate seeds.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: seed should be sown soon after collection.

Management: Tolerates heavy pruning.

Remarks: It is widely cultivated in the tropics, including Uganda, as a hedge. The leaves are aromatic when crushed and are said to repel flies. The fruit are juicy and used to make jelly and jam. Plant as an orchard tree, as a hedge or as an ornamental.

