

South America

**Trade names:** Passion fruit, granadilla.

**Common names:** **English:** Passion fruit, granadilla **Luganda:** Katunda.

**Ecology:** A large genus of climbers from tropical South America with several edible species. The best known is *P. edulis* which does well in the subtropics into tropical highlands. Two common varieties grow in Uganda. *P. edulis* var. *edulis* does best at higher altitudes, about 1,200 m, and does not grow well in wet lowlands. It is grown in Mubende, Fort Portal, Kasese, Bushenyi, Rukungiri, Kabale, Mbale and Kapchorwa Districts and has become naturalized. It grows on a variety of soils except heavy poorly drained ones. *P. edulis* var. *flavocarpa* is better suited to the tropical lowlands and does well in central Uganda. The Kawanda hybrid is a high-yielding cross of the two varieties.

**Uses:** Food (fruit), drink (fruit), jams, jellies, etc.

**Description:** A vigorous evergreen perennial climber to 15 m, the stem sometimes angular, no hairs. **LEAVES:** young leaves may be ovate but mature leaves **deeply 3-lobed**, stiff, dark green, 5-11 cm x 6-12 cm across, **3-nerved from the base**, lobes to 8 cm, tip pointed, **edge toothed**; **2 glands** lie just below the blade **on the leaf stalk to 4 cm**. **Tendrils** are **simple 5-20 cm, the whole stalk curling around supports**. **FLOWERS:** large and showy, **purple-white 4-7 cm across, single, on stalks to 6 cm**, oblong petals to 2.5 cm, **ovary long stalked**, 5 stalked stamens and 3 stalked styles in the centre. Sepals and leafy bract surround the flower. **FRUIT:** a **round-oval stalked' berry 4-5 cm** diameter, the tough outer skin smooth, **yellow or purple, wrinkled when ripe**, containing many **black edible seeds in acid-sweet juicy yellow pulp**. Var. *flavocarpa* has larger deep yellow fruit 5-6 cm across with more acid pulp.

**Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seeds in pots) raised in nurseries and planted out in fields. Grafting is used to minimize disease.

**Seed:** It is very easy to collect seed from ripe fruits, especially if there is a factory nearby,

**treatment:** not necessary,

**storage:** sow as soon as collected.

**Management:** Fast growing. Planted 3-6 m apart, 2 leaders from each seedling are allowed to grow until they reach a wire trellis fixed between posts. Little pruning is done except to facilitate spraying or to force new growth.

**Remarks:** Passion-fruit growing is a paying venture and would improve the livelihood of rural farmers. The purple passion fruit has a better flavour than the yellow form. Seeds and pulp are usually eaten raw, but the pulp can be used to make juice as well as jams and jellies. Rain at flowering time prevents pollination.

