



General

Quince trees have been around for 4000 years and were often depicted in ancient paintings and found in mosaics from the ruins of Pompeii. They were found in many American gardens before the turn of the century as they are a great source of pectin.

Quince is very hard and astringent raw, but add a delicious fruity aromatic and almost spicy flavor to preserves, chutneys, pies and cobblers and give apple cider an extra punch. Display some fruit in a bowl and it will fill the air with a wonderful fruity fragrance.

Quince trees are attractive as well as productive. Foliage is dark green with a silver underside, spring flowers are large and pink, and the tree takes on a slightly twisted or undulating form with age. Trees are compact, usually kept to about 10-12 ft tall.

Planting

Quince prefers full sun (6 to 8 hrs in the growing season) and rich, moist but well-drained soil. Plant them so they are protected from harsh winds. They benefit from a layer of mulch to help keep roots moist and cool. They are not picky about PH, but slightly alkaline is best.

Feeding

Once established Quinces do not need to be fertilized, however young trees may be fed with a citrus food. Use a fertilizer low in Nitrogen as excess N. may encourage fruit –drop and fire blight.

Pruning

Quince generally require less aggressive pruning than many other fruit trees, though they still need some shaping and thinning. Prune dead or damaged branches, control branch angles and canopy balance, and thin to promote air circulation. Prune in mid to late winter.

Disease and Pest Control

Brown rot blossom blight and Fire blight are two of the diseases affecting Quince. Keeping the area clean of fallen fruit, leaves and twigs goes a long way towards prevention, however in severe cases fungicide sprays may be needed. Infected twigs and branches need to be pruned out in summer. Although Quince are relatively pest free, Caterpillars, Curculio beetles and Borers may visit your tree. See the **Spray Schedule** for details.

QUINCE VARIETIES

Pineapple Quince – Pale yellow, medium size, pear shaped fruit. Ripens in October. Use poached, in preserves and even roasted.

Smyrna – Large golden yellow apple shaped fruit ripens Sept/Oct. Stores longer than most varieties.

