

Kumquat

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Malayan Kumquat foliage and fruit

Scientific classification

Kingdom: [Plantae](#)
Division: [Magnoliophyta](#)
Class: [Magnoliopsida](#)
Order: [Sapindales](#)
Family: [Rutaceae](#)
Genus: [Citrus](#)
Subgenus: ***Fortunella***
([Swingle](#)) Burkill

Species

See text

The **kumquats** or **cumquats** are a group of small fruit-bearing [trees](#). The edible [fruit](#) (which is also called kumquat) is similar to other *Citrus* but is smaller.^[1]

Kumquats are slow-growing, evergreen [shrubs](#) or small [trees](#), from 2.5 to 4.5 m tall, with dense branches. Sometimes they have small [thorns](#). The [leaves](#) are dark glossy green, and the [flowers](#) pure white, similar to citrus flowers.^[2]

Kumquats came from [China](#) (they are known in literature of the [12th century](#)), and have long been cultivated there and in [Japan](#). They were introduced to [Europe](#) in [1846](#) by [Robert Fortune](#), who was collector for the *London Horticultural Society*, and a short time later into [North America](#).^[3]

They are much hardier than citrus plants as [oranges](#). The 'Nagami' kumquat needs a hot summer, ranging from 25 °C(77 °F) to 38 °C(100.4 °F), but can withstand frost down to about -10 °C(14 °F). It grows in the tea regions of China where the climate is too cold for other citrus fruits, even the [Mikan](#) (also known as the Satsuma) orange.

Etymology

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The English name "kumquat" derives from the [Cantonese](#) pronunciation *gam1 gwat1* (given in [Jyutping romanization](#)). The alternate name , also

pronounced *gam gwat* in Cantonese (*gān jú* in [Mandarin](#), literally "large tangerine orange") is now more commonly written by Cantonese speakers.

Names in other Asian languages include:

- [Japanese](#): *kinkan* (金柑)
- [Korean](#): *geumgyul* (金橘)
- [Mandarin](#): *jīnjú* (金橘)
- [Thai](#): *somchíd* (ส้มจีน)
- [Vietnamese](#): *cam quất* (from the Cantonese) or, less commonly, (*quả*) *kim quất* (if transliterated from the characters 金 into [Sino-Vietnamese](#); "quả" (果) is the Sino-Vietnamese prefix for "fruit")

Notes

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

1. ↑ ["Kumquat | Definition, Size, & Facts | Britannica"](#).
2. ↑ ["Kumquats - an overview | ScienceDirect Topics"](#).
3. ↑ ["Kumquat - New World Encyclopedia"](#).

References and other websites

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

[English Wiktionary](#)
English Wiktionary

The English [Wiktionary](#) has a dictionary definition (meanings of a word) for: ***kumquat***

- [Fruits of warm climates](#)
- Burkill, I. H. (1931). An enumeration of the species of Paramignya, Atalantia and Citrus, found in Malaya. *Gard. Bull. Straits Settlem.* 5: 212-220.
- Mabberley, D. J. (1998). Australian Citreae with notes on other Aurantioideae (Rutaceae). *Telopea* 7 (4): 333-344. Available [online Archived](#) 2008-07-30 at the [Wayback Machine](#) (pdf).

Types of fruits	
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• v• t• e</div>	
Types of fruits	Achene • Berry • Capsule • Caryopsis • Drupe • Follicle • Hesperidium • Legume • Loment • Nut • Pome • Samara • Schizocarp • Silique • Syconium
Categories of fruits	Accessory fruit • Simple fruit • Aggregate or compound fruit • Multiple fruit • Dehiscent fruit

List of fruits

[Apple](#) • [Apricot](#) • [Banana](#) • [Bilberry](#) • [Blackberry](#) •
[Blackcurrant](#) • [Blueberry](#) • [Coconut](#) • [Currant](#) • [Cherry](#) •
[Cherimoya](#) • [Clementine](#) • [Cloudberry](#) • [Date](#) • [Damson](#) •
[Dragonfruit](#) • [Durian](#) • [Elderberry](#) • [Fig](#) • [Feijoa](#) •
[Gooseberry](#) • [Grape](#) • [Grapefruit](#) • [Huckleberry](#) • [Jackfruit](#) •
[Jambul](#) • [Jujube](#) • [Kiwifruit](#) • [Kumquat](#) • [Lemon](#) • [Lime](#) •
[Loquat](#) • [Lychee](#) • [Mango](#) • [Mangosteen](#) • [Melon](#) •
[Cantaloupe](#) • [Honeydew](#) • [Watermelon](#) • [Rock melon](#) •
[Nectarine](#) • [Orange](#) • [Passionfruit](#) • [Peach](#) • [Pear](#) • [Plum](#) •
[Plumcot](#) • [Prune](#) • [Pineapple](#) • [Pomegranate](#) • [Pomelo](#) •
[Raisin](#) • [Raspberry](#) • [Rambutan](#) • [Redcurrant](#) • [Satsuma](#) •
[Strawberry](#) • [Tangerine](#) • [Tomato](#) • [Ugli fruit](#) •

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