

FORTUNELLA MARGARITA



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Citrus japonica, commonly known as Kumquat, is a small shrub-like tree belonging to the Rutaceae family. Its most distinctive feature compared to other citrus fruits is that its fruits can be eaten whole, including the peel. With its glossy green leaves and small golden-yellow to orange fruits, it is often referred to as the “golden jewel of gardens.”



The species is native to southern China. Its name is derived from the Chinese term “Gam Gwat,” meaning “Golden Orange.” It was introduced to Europe in the 19th century by Robert Fortune and subsequently spread throughout the world. Today, especially in Turkey, it is widely cultivated along the coastal belt from Rize to Antalya for both commercial and ornamental purposes.

Cultivation and Uses

Kumquat thrives in abundant sunlight and prefers well-drained, slightly acidic soils. It is one of the most cold-hardy citrus species, able to tolerate temperatures down to about -10°C . Because it grows slowly, it is easy to manage and control. To increase fruit production, regular watering is recommended, along with nitrogen-rich fertilization, especially during the spring months.



In landscaping, it is most commonly used as a container plant on balconies, terraces, and at entrances as a “welcoming plant.” Thanks to its compact growth habit, it allows even small gardens to enjoy the presence of a fruit tree. Its dense, evergreen foliage provides an attractive appearance throughout the year. In addition to being eaten fresh, its fruits are highly valued for making jams and liqueurs. It can also be grown successfully indoors when placed in front of windows that receive sufficient sunlight.