

# Ison's Nursery & Vineyard

## Planting Instructions

### QUINCE Planting Instructions

Quince is believed to predate the apple. Many references to fruit in ancient texts, such as the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, were probably referring to the quince. Greek mythology associates the quince with Aphrodite, the goddess of love, and many believe that the golden apple given to her by Paris was a quince.

#### What Is Quince?

The modern-day quince is shaped like a hybrid of an apple and pear, and similar in size. The average quince weighs about 4 ounces, has a rich yellow exterior, and gives off a strong, pleasant fragrance. It's hard, acidic, and astringent before cooking, but it turns red, takes on a whole different flavor, and tastes divine when cooked. Aluminum cookware will deliver the deepest red color in cooked quince. Quinces grow on trees and are ripe and ready for eating in late autumn.

To eat it, you must always remove the fruit's peel and core before cooking. Then it can be roasted, stewed, pureed, poached, baked, made into jelly, or grilled.

The quince is the sole member of the genus *Cydonia* in the family Rosaceae (which also contains apples and pears, among other fruits). It is a tree fruit that bears a deciduous pome fruit, similar in appearance to a pear, and is bright golden-yellow when mature.

Quinces are used to make marmalade and jam, spoon sweets, and jellies. The fruit has a lot of pectin, a naturally occurring starch. Quinces also make great additions to apple pies, and they're delicious when cooked with meats. There are some well-known and well-loved pork dishes in Greece made with quince, and it's also good with proteins such as lamb, turkey, and duck. Quinces can be baked, just like apples, for a sweet and simple dessert.

Quinces prefer a slightly alkaline **soil pH** of 6.5-7.0. They grow in many soil types but do best in deep, very loamy soil. They do not like soils that are poorly drained.

**Cross Pollination:** Plant 2 different varieties of Quince to cross pollinate.

#### **Planting:**

When selecting a location, be sure to choose a site that receives full sun and shelter from wind.

It is important that your planting location receives full sun for vigorous growth and quality fruit production.

Space your trees 10-25 feet apart depending on the variety.

Dig a planting hole approximately twice the width of the pot and at the same depth as the root ball.

Enrich the planting hole with peat moss, compost or pine bark mixed with soil dug from the hole.

The quince should be planted at or slightly above the same level, at which it grew in the pot.

Fill the planting hole with the mix of enriched soil; gently tamp it in.

In order to settle the roots and eliminate air pockets water thoroughly.

Mulch the entire planting area with about 4-6 inches of mulch pulling the mulch a few inches away from the trunk to keep moisture from accumulation next to the bark.

## **Fertilizing Tips**

When planting, do not put fertilizer in planting hole.

When fertilizing, water or rake in the mixture evenly under the entire tree, avoiding a 4-inch area around the trunk.

Fertilize no more than 2 times each year, beginning in March and no later than July. Fertilizing after July may promote new growth around the time the plant needs to go dormant. Premature fruit drop and the spread of fire blight can be caused by over fertilization.

## **Pruning:**

Remove any broken, dead or crossing branches as the tree matures. Thin out limbs only if they get so thick that it makes fruit harvesting difficult. You want good air flow and sunlight to filter through the tree.

