

## NZ Myrtaceae Key - Online edition

# *Acca sellowiana* (O.Berg) Burret

### Synonyms

*Feijoa sellowiana* (O.Berg) O.Berg

### Common Names

feijoa

### Origin

South America: indigenous to the highlands of southern Brazil, eastern Paraguay, Uruguay, northern Argentina, and Colombia.

### Cultivation

Widely cultivated in New Zealand as an ornamental tree and for its edible fruit. Many cultivars have been developed, including *A. sellowiana* 'Apollo', 'Mammoth', 'Opal Star', 'Triumph', 'Unique' and 'Wiki Tu'.

### Distribution

Almost exclusively in cultivation; predominantly in the North Island but is cold tolerant so also reasonably common in the South Island of New Zealand.

### Distinguishing Features

- A much-branched shrub or small tree with grey to reddish-brown bark that peels off in flakes.
- Younger stems are slightly four-angled and hairy.
- Leaves opposite.
- Petals 4, reddish-pink to purple above.
- Fruit large, green and edible when mature.

### Habit

Much branched small tree or shrub, growing (1–)2–4(–7) m tall.

### Bark and Stem/Trunk

Main stems or trunk rough-barked, grey to reddish-brown, ribbons absent, adventitious roots absent. Younger stems are greenish in colour, silvery hairy and slightly four-angled.

### Leaves

Leaves opposite, elliptic, 20–60(–106) mm long, 10–30(–46) mm wide, leathery, glossy green above, silvery below; leaf blade flat and surfaces not puckered; margins entire or slightly wavy, may be revolute; tips rounded; leaf stalks 3–12 mm long.

### Flowers

Flowers solitary or in clusters, terminal on branches, flower stalks present; petals 4, often reddish-pink to purple above, white below, margins curled upward, slightly fleshy; sepals 4, free, persistent; stamens red or purple, longer than petals. Main flowering period: spring to summer.

### Fruit

Fruit a fleshy berry, fruits free, obovate, (3–)4–5-locular, mature fruit variable in shape from round to elongated, 50–80 mm long, 30–70 mm wide, crowned by persistent sepals; skin waxy, dull blue-green or greyish green, texture varies from smooth to rough and pebbly; pale creamy edible flesh inside.

### Similar Species

*Pomaderris kumeraho*, a New Zealand indigenous shrub that is present in shrubland from the wider Auckland region northwards, especially on clay soils, has similar foliage, but the flowers are pale yellow in a much-branched cluster.

### Notes

*Acca sellowiana* is susceptible to myrtle rust (caused by *Austropuccinia psidii*).

*Acca* is a genus of three species, two in the southern Central Andes (Bolivia and Peru) and *A. sellowiana* which is from eastern temperate South America.

### External Links

- Agroforestry Database
- Flora of New Zealand Online
- GBIF
- iNaturalist NZ

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