

# Quince

## *Cydonia oblonga*

Very popular in Central Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, Quince fruit is used in jelly, jams, baked goods, and meat glazes. The Quince is a first cousin to the apple and pear with a long history of cultivation in its native Middle East. The Greeks had a custom of giving a quince to a bride on her wedding day as a symbol of fertility and this ritual persisted well into the Christian era. The tale of Hercules and the golden apple was really about a quince. The Quince was introduced into Great Britain as of 1275. The fruit is dry and astringent raw, so rarely eaten fresh. Less than 200 acres are in commercial production in the United States.



### Identification

#### Leaves

Deciduous, simple, elliptical, 2-4" long, 1-2" wide, untoothed, dark green above, pale with dense gray felt below, turning yellow in fall.



#### Flower/Fruit

Monoecious; pink or white, solitary at end of short twigs appearing in June. Fruits are golden yellow, large, up to 1 pound, hard, and gritty. Seeds poisonous.



#### Bark/Wood

#### Form

Small tree, often multi-stemmed, with rounded form. Small branches are gnarled and contorted often crossing and growing into the canopy.



#### Uses

Quince roots are used as dwarfing stock for pears. Delicious cooked in jellies, jams, glazes, and additions to baked goods. Used in bonsai.

#### Ethnobotany

A syrup from the fruit has been used as an addition to drinks to address problems of the bowels. The fruit was dedicated to Venus and regarded as the symbol of love and happiness (relationship of dedication to aforementioned syrup unknown).

#### Native Distribution

Middle East.

#### Establishment

Pruning required to maintain tree shape, will be multi-trunked without pruning.

### Growing Conditions and Culture

Mature Size 20'Hx15'Wx1'dbh  
 USDA Zone 4-8  
 Light Requirements Part to Full Sun

Soils Diverse  
 Drought Tolerant? Yes  
 Inundation Tolerant? Moderate

#### Pests/Damaging Agents

No damaging agents have been observed in my orchard.

#### Similar Species

#### Propagation

Layering and hardwood cuttings.

#### Source(s)

Transplants from Northwoods Nursery, Molalla, OR.