Growing your Phyllanthus acidus seed

Malay gooseberry, Tahitian gooseberry, country gooseberry, star gooseberry, West Indian gooseberry, Chermoi

Phyllanthus acidus is an attractive open foliaged tree growing around 8-10 metres in height. It produces masses of small yellow fruit, mainly on the older wood. The fruit may be eaten fresh, but it is highly acid. It makes a wonderful Jam or Jelly and can be juiced, dried, salted or pickled. The fruit is very high in vitamin C and Beta Carotenes.

Sow your seeds on a well drained medium such as 75% sand and 25% Peat moss, or a potting mix with 50% coarse sand added to it. Keep them in a very bright, filtered light location and maintain consistent moisture levels, not sopping wet, just nice and moist.

When the seedlings reach 2-3 cm high, carefully transplant them to 5 cm pots using an open potting medium such as Searle’s premium brand with around 25% coarse river sand or 5 mm scoria gravel added to the mix. Add a pinch only of Osmocote to each pot and water well. Keep your plants in very bright filtered light and do not let them dry out.

Pot on as needed using the same potting medium. Move to early morning sun as they grow, and when they are well established, put them in a location that receives filtered afternoon sun. Give the plants a feed with a citrus fertiliser twice a year and water regularly in dry weather.

The only major pests of this plant are chewing insects such as Grasshoppers and Caterpillars, these can simply be crushed or sprayed with the insecticide Carbaryl if the infestation is heavy.

Best of success with your seeds, do contact me if I can be of any further help.

Regards

Steve
(blanchett@westnet.com.au)