



The **kumquat** plant is native to Southern China. The historical reference to kumquats appears in literature of China from at least the 12th century. They have been cultivated for centuries in other parts of East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. They were introduced into Europe in 1846 by Robert Fortune, collector for the London Horticultural Society and are now found across the world.

The fruits can be 2.5–5 centimeters (1–2 inches) in diameter and have a sweet, pulpy skin and slightly acidic inner pulp. The fruit is often eaten whole by humans and has a taste which is sweet and somewhat sour. Kumquat trees are self-pollinating.



Carambola, also known as **STAR FRUIT**, is the fruit of Averrhoa carambola, a species of tree native to tropical Southeast Asia. The entire fruit is edible, including the slightly waxy skin. The flesh is crunchy, firm, and extremely juicy. It does not contain fibers and has a texture similar in consistency to that of grapes.

Carambolas are best consumed shortly after they ripen when they are yellow with a light shade of green, or just after all traces of green have disappeared. They will also have brown ridges at the edges and feel firm. Fruits picked while still slightly green will turn yellow in storage at room temperature but will not increase in sugar content. Overripe carambola will be yellow with brown spots and can become blander in taste and soggy in consistency.