PLB143: The Crop of the Day
Kumquat (Fortunella sp.)

Sources
- Kumquat Festival: Dade City, FL: [http://www.kumquatfestival.com/about.html](http://www.kumquatfestival.com/about.html)

Botanical data
- Family: Rutaceae; genus: Fortunella, related to genus Citrus; can be crossed easily with Citrus
- Wild kumquat: believed native to S. China
- Small tree or shrub: 2.5 to 4.5 m tall
- Leaves are lanceolate, 3.25-8.6 cm long, finely toothed from the apex to the middle, dark-green, glossy
- Sweetly fragrant, 5-parted, white flowers are borne singly or 1 to 4 together in the leaf axils
- Fruit:
  - Oval-oblong or round, 1.6-4 cm wide;
  - Peel is golden-yellow to reddish-orange, with large, conspicuous oil glands;
  - Outer layer: fleshy, thick, tightly clinging, edible;
  - Pulp is scant, in 3 to 6 segments, acid to subacid; may contain small, pointed seeds; green within.
Kumquat, the plant

Historical data

- First described in 1178 in China
- European description in 1646 based on account of Portuguese missionary to China
- Japan: 1712, list of plants
- Grown since 19th century in Europe and N. America: ornamental
- Currently, mainly grown in CA, TX, FL in U.S.

Linguistic data

- China: kumquat, cumquat, comquot: “gold orange”
- Japan:
  - Round fruit: kin kan or kin kit
  - Oval fruit: too kin kan
- S.E. Asia:
  - Round fruit: kin, kin kuit, kuit xu
  - Oval fruit: chu tsu or chantu
- Brazil:
  - Kumquat, kunquat, laranja de ouro, laranja dos orientais
Different types of kumquats

- **Nagami** - F. margarita Swing. Also called **Oval or Long Kumquat**. Fruits are longer than wide, up to 4.5 cm long and 3 cm wide, with thin, yellow-orange peel. Most often cultivated kumquat in the United States.

- **‘Meiwa’**, or **Large Round Kumquat** - F. crassifolia Swing. Possibly a hybrid between ‘Nagami’ and ‘Marumi’. Round fruit, 4 cm wide, thick orange-yellow peel.

- **‘Hong Kong’, or ‘Hong Kong Wild’** - F. hindsii Swing. Fruit is orange/scarlet when ripe, round (1.5-2 cm wide), many seeds.

- **‘Marumi’** - F. japonica Swing. Also called **Round Kumquat**. Thin, golden-yellow peel surrounds aromatic and spicy pulp. Said to be most cold hardy of kumquats.

[http://www.uga.edu/fruit/citrus.htm](http://www.uga.edu/fruit/citrus.htm)

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**Food Value Per 100 g of Edible Portion (raw) (USDA data)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrient</th>
<th>Kumquat</th>
<th>Daily values</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calories</td>
<td>27 kcal</td>
<td>2000 kcal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>3.8 g</td>
<td>50 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>0.4 g</td>
<td>65 g</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carbohydrates</td>
<td>72.1 g</td>
<td>300 g</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
<td>266 mg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phosphorus</td>
<td>97 mg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>1.7 mg</td>
<td>18 mg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
<td>30 mg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potassium</td>
<td>995 mg</td>
<td>3000 mg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vitamin A</td>
<td>2,530 I.U.</td>
<td>5000 I.U.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thiamine</td>
<td>0.35 mg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riboflavin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ascorbic Acid</td>
<td>151 mg</td>
<td>60 mg</td>
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