



CHIUTE *Cebera dilatata*

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Chiute is a small-to-medium-sized tree that is endemic to the Mariana Islands. On Guam, Chiute can be found growing in savannah and ravine areas. It can be found in a wide range of habitats.

Other Common Names: Atilas, Chuti, Native plumeria

Synonyms: Unknown

Family Name: Apocynaceae

Plant appearance

Distinctive feature: Chiute has plumeria-like flowers that are fragrant and attractive. The fruits, when still green, look like a small mango and when mature, the it turns from purple-maroon to brown. The fruits are smooth and shiny with whitish, tiny spots. The seeds are poisonous.

Leaf

Shape: Lanceolate

Arrangement: Alternate

Type: Simple

Flower

Size: 2.0-2.8 in.

Color: White and pinkish in the center

Shape: Stellate, star-shaped with five petals and tubular corolla

Arrangement: Compound cyme

Flowering period: Year-round

Habit

Typical height: Average 8-25 ft. and can grow up to 30 ft.



Chiute flowers^a.

Fruit

Type: Drupe

Size: Average 0.89 x 0.59 in.

Color: Green when immature and turns purple-maroon to brown when ripe

Number of seeds: 1

Edible: No, seeds are poisonous

Growing Your Own

Form: Seed and cuttings

Seed collection: Select seeds from healthy and mature fruits that can be collected either from the tree or ground.

Seed treatment: Remove seed coat to hasten germination.

Germination time: 2 months

Planting depth: No deeper than twice the size of the seed.

Pre-planting: Seedlings from 1-gallon pots will be ready for transplant in 4-6 months after initial germination. Ensure shoot growth is at least 1 ft. above pot height and no taller than 2 ft. and ensure



Chiute leaves^a.

girth is at least 0.50 in. in diameter.

Special hints: Ensure adequate water and fertilize as needed.

Production conditions

pH value: 6.0-7.2 (slightly acidic - neutral)

Water: Do not overwater but media should be kept moist

Salt tolerance: Low

Wind tolerance: High

Soil characteristics: Well-drained soils

Light: Full sun, can tolerate shade

Space requirement: 8-15 ft.

Growth rate: 1-3 ft. per year

Growth direction: Upwards, crown spreading

Fertilizer: For outplants, apply small amounts of complete fertilizer once every 3-4 months for one (1) year.



Chiute fruit^a.

Pruning: Prune dead branches. Prune as necessary for structure and crown thinning. Prune no more than 25 percent of plant every 4-6 months.

Risks

Near surface roots: None

Limb breakage: Medium

Special considerations: The milky sap from the tree and other plant parts may be poisonous.

Pests: Oleander hawk moth, wild pigs (rooting)

How to use this plant

Chiute is recommended for reforestation of grasslands and urban forestry projects in the landscape.

Agroforestry: Landscape, reforestation

Wildlife: Food source

Medicinal: Leaf - after childbirth, leaf decoction is used for aromatic bath; Bark, leaves, and latex - used as purgative; Fruits excluding seeds - used for rheumatism.

Other uses: Inner bark is used as fiber; seed oil is used as a source to lamp oil.



Chiute seed^a.

Photo Credits

a. Christine B. Laurent

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Jim Hollyer for his valuable contribution in the completion of this factsheet.

Notes

This publication is an update of:
Kristine Borja. 2007. *Sophora*. Guam Department of Agriculture. 2pp.



Chiute seedling^a.

For further information

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Reference

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Vogt, S.R. and L.L. Williams. 2004. *Common Flora and Fauna of the Mariana Islands*. 158p.

This is a continuation of the first set of 9 Native Tree factsheets in collaboration with Guam Department of Agriculture and USDA which is found in this link: http://cnas-re.uog.edu/useful-cnas-documents-posters/?wpv_aux_current_post_id=3189&wpv_view_count=3187-TCPID3189&wpv_paged=2.

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