



## FAIA *Tristiopsis obtusangula*

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**F**aia is primarily found in limestone soils on Guam, but also occurs on mixed soils.

**Other Common Names:** Fern-leaved tamarind

**Synonyms:** *Tristiopsis acutangula*

**Family Name:** Sapindaceae

### Plant appearance

Faia is distinguished by its three-sided ellipsoidal fruits with fine white hairs, leaves with unequal sides, and white little flowers that are bowl-shaped.

#### Leaf

**Shape:** Elliptic to oblong-elliptic

**Arrangement:** Bi-pinnate with alternate leaflets

**Type:** Compound

#### Flower

**Size:** About 0.30 in. in diameter

**Color:** White

**Shape:** Actinomorphic, bowl-shape

**Arrangement:** Raceme

**Flowering period:** Year-round

#### Habit

**Typical height:** up to 50 ft.

#### Fruit

**Type:** Drupe

**Size:** About 1.0-1.18 in. long

**Color:** Yellow green

**Number of seeds:** Up to 3

**Edible:** Likely for wildlife



**Faia flowers<sup>a</sup>.**

### Growing your own

**Form:** Seed

**Seed collection:** Collect seeds from healthy and mature fruits either on the tree or ground.

**Seed treatment:** Remove seeds from individual seed chambers with clipper

**Germination time:** 1-3 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 girth is at least 0.50 in. in diameter.

**Special hints:** Ensure adequate water and fertilize as needed.

### Production conditions

**pH value:** 6.5-8 (neutral)

**Water:** Well-drained and do not overwater

**Salt tolerance:** Low

**Wind tolerance:** Medium



**Faia leaves<sup>a</sup>.**

**Soil characteristics:** Primarily limestone soils

**Light:** Full sun or shade

**Space requirement:** 20-25 ft.

**Growth rate:** 1-3 ft. per year

**Growth direction:** Upward

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

**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:** Depends on the location and soil depth of sites

**Limb breakage:** Low

**Special considerations:** None

**Pests:** Mealybug, scales, feral pig, and deer

### How to use this plant

**Agroforestry:** Can be used in agroforestry systems

**Wildlife:** Food and habitat

**Medicinal:** Unknown

**Other uses:** Good lumber



**Faia seeds<sup>a</sup>.**



**Faia fruit<sup>a</sup>.**

## Photo credits

a. Christine B. Laurent

## Acknowledgements

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## For further information

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Faia seedling<sup>a</sup>.

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](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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