



## GAPIT ATAYAKI *Wikstroemia elliptica*

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**G**apit atayaki is a shrub that is native to Guam and Micronesia and usually found on limestone and volcanic soils.

**Other Common Names:** Gapit atayake

**Synonyms:** None

**Family Name:** Thymelaeaceae

### Plant appearance

**Distinctive feature:** Gapit atayaki has smooth leaves and bark with yellow-green flowers that turn into bright red fruits.

### Leaf

**Shape:** Obovate

**Arrangement:** Opposite

**Type:** Simple

### Flower

**Size:** 0.9-1.3 in. long

**Color:** Yellow-green

**Shape:** Trumpet-shape with four lobes and light orange pollens in the middle

**Arrangement:** Cluster

**Flowering period:** Year-round

### Habit

**Typical height:** Up to 6 ft.

### Fruit

**Type:** Drupe

**Size:** About 0.40 in., round

**Color:** Red

**Number of seeds:** 1

**Edible:** No, it is poisonous.



Gapit atayaki flowers<sup>a</sup>.

### Growing your own

**Form:** Seed

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

**Seed treatment:** None

**Germination time:** Up to 1 month

**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, 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 up to 6 months to 1 year after transplanting from pots.

### Production conditions

**pH value:** 6-7.5 (slightly acidic - alkaline)

**Water:** Moderately-drained and not over-watered

**Salt tolerance:** Low



Gapit atayaki leaves<sup>a</sup>.

**Wind tolerance:** Medium

**Soil characteristics:** Volcanic and limestone

**Light:** Full sun

**Space requirement:** 6-8 ft.

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

**Growth direction:** Upwards

**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 no more than 25 percent of plant every 4-6 months.

### Risks

**Near surface roots:** Depends on depth of soil

**Limb breakage:** Low

**Special considerations:** None

**Pests:** Ungulates, wild insects, susceptible to fungal diseases

**Pests:** Unknown



Gapit atayaki fruit<sup>a</sup>.

### How to use this plant

Although Gapit atayaki seeds are poisonous, this plant is highly recommended for landscaping purposes.

**Agroforestry:** Landscape

**Wildlife:** Unknown

**Medicinal:** Unknown

**Other uses:** Bark is used as cord



Gapit atayaki seed<sup>a</sup>.

## Photo Credits

a. Christine B. Laurent

## Acknowledgements

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## For Further Information

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Gapit atayaki seedling<sup>a</sup>.

## References

Glassman, S. (1948). A Survey of the Plants of Guam.

Journal of the Arnold Arboretum, 29(2), 169-185.

Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43781291>

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