



NONAK

Hernandia sonora

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Nonak is a large tree that is found in the Mariana Islands and other Pacific Islands. It is a fast-growing tree commonly found on coastal areas along seashores, mouths of rivers, and also occurs growing in inland forests.

Other Common Names: Doko, Hernandia, Jack-in-the-box, Lantern tree

Synonyms: *Hernandia peltata*

Family Name: Hernandiaceae

Plant appearance

Distinctive feature: Nonak has soft wood with light grey bark, silvery-white flowers that occur in clusters. The fruit resembles a light-yellow, hollow bell with a dark brown to black seed when mature.

Leaf

Shape: Broadly ovate and cordate at the base

Arrangement: Alternate

Type: Simple, Peltate

Flower

Size: About 1.25 in. wide

Color: White

Shape: Stellate (star-shaped)

Arrangement: Cyme

Flowering period: Year round

Habit

Typical height: Up to 60 ft.

Fruit

Type: Nut

Size: About 1.5 in. in diameter



Nonak flowers^a.

Color: Yellow green when immature and turns light yellow when mature

Number of seeds: 1

Edible: Likely for wildlife

Growing your own

Form: Seed

Seed collection: Collect seeds from healthy and mature fruits. Remove the seed jacket before sowing.

Seed treatment: None

Germination time: 1 month after sowing but can take up to six (6) months

Planting depth: No more 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.



Nonak leaves^a.

Production conditions

pH value: 6.5-8.0 (neutral to alkaline)

Water: Moderate watering

Salt tolerance: High

Wind tolerance: High

Soil characteristics: Moisture-retentive soil

Light: Full sun

Space requirement: 25-30 ft.

Growth rate: 1-3 ft. per year

Growth direction: Upwards, wide spreading crown

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.



Nonak fruit^a.

Risks

Near surface roots: High

Limb breakage: Low

Special considerations: None

Pests: Unknown

How to use this plant

Nonak is a fast-growing tree that is well-suited to coastal gardens. It tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and is moderately drought tolerant.

Agroforestry: Ornamental, shade tree

Wildlife: Food source, habitat

Medicinal: Bark, seeds, and leaves are used to induce vomiting; decoction of bark and leaves is used against constipation; sap from the leaves can be used for hair removal; and roots are used as antidote from fish poisoning.

Other uses: Seeds can be burnt as candles, wood can be used as fillers for plywood, boxes, baskets, pulp, paper, and substitute for Balsa wood but not favored as it waterlogs quickly.



Nonak seed^a.

Photo credits

- a. Lauren Gutierrez
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For further information

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<http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Hernandia+sonora>



Nonak seedling^a.

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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