



CHIUTE

Botanical Name: *Cerbera dilatata*
Common Name: Native Plumeria
Native Range: Endemic to the Mariana Islands

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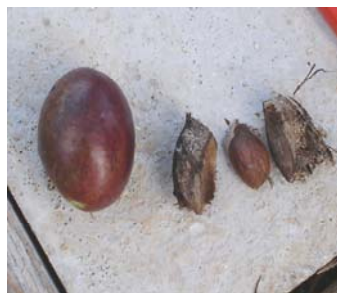
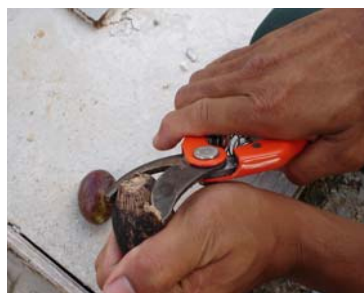


Description

Chiute is a small-medium sized tree (up to 30ft) that grows naturally only in the Mariana Islands (Raulerson & Rinehart, 1991; Stone, 1970). On Guam, chiute can be found growing in savannah and ravine areas. They apparently grow in limestone soils in other Mariana Islands. Its plumeria-like flowers are fragrant and attractive. Chiute fruits mature from purple-maroon to brown. The milky sap from the tree and other plant parts may be poisonous (Raulerson and Rinehart, 1991)

Propagation

Chiute can be propagated by seed (1 seed per fruit) and cuttings. To hasten germination, seeds can be removed from seed coat, which will germinate within 2 months from sowing. A well-drained media should be used for germination. Media should be kept moist and not over-watered.



Uses

Chiute fruits may be a food source for wildlife. F&SRD uses chiute for reforestation of grasslands and urban forestry projects in the landscape.

References:

- Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 1991. *Trees and Shrubs of the Northern Mariana Islands*. Coastal Resources Management, Office of the Governor, CNMI. 120p.
- Vogt, S.R. and L.L. Williams. 2004. *Common Flora and Fauna of the Mariana Islands*. Laura L. Williams and Scott R. Vogt. 158p.

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