



Botanical Name: *Casuarina equisetifolia*
Common Name: Gagu
Native Range: Native to many Pacific coasts

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Created: June 19, 2006



Description

Gagu is a large tree that is native to Guam and other Pacific Islands (Raulerson & Rhinehart, 1991; Stone, 1970). It can be found in most of Guam's soil types including the beach strand, volcanic and limestone soils. It is a nitrogen-fixing tree that can grow on badlands and grasslands.

Propagation

Gagu is easily propagated by seed and germinates within 1-3 weeks. Seeds should be collected from greenish-brown unopened cones still attached to branches. Brown cones are usually opened with seeds already out of seed pockets. Harvested cones should be dried out and contained. Seed pockets will open within several days. Seeds can be forced out by wrapping in enclosed material and striking against a solid surface. Seeds can be sifted from cone debris through a fine-woven screen.



Uses

Gagu has been used locally for medicine, lumber, and firewood (Raulerson & Rhinehart, 1991). Guam Forestry produces gagu yearly for farm windbreaks and erosion control in savannah lands.

References:

Raulerson, L. and A. Rhinehart. 1991. *Trees and Shrubs of the Northern Mariana Islands*. Coastal Resources Management, Office of the Governor, CNMI. 120p.

Stone, B.C. 1970. *The Flora of Guam*. Micronesica vol. 6. University of Guam. 657 p.

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