



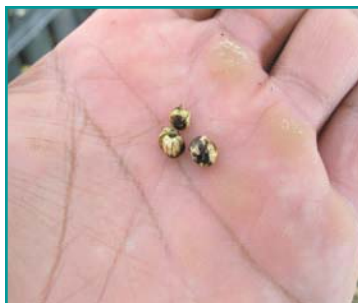
**Botanical Name:** *Tournefortia argentea*  
**Common Name:** Velvet Leaf, Tree Heliotrope  
**Native Range:** Native to many Indian and Pacific Ocean coasts

**Author:** Joseph Tuquero  
**Photos:** Forestry & Soil Resources Division (F&SRD)  
**Created:** November 29, 2005



## Description

Hunik is a small-medium sized tree (up to 25ft) that grows naturally along the beach strand (Raulerson & Rhinehart, 1991). It is native to Mariana Islands and other Pacific islands (Stone, 1970). Its attractive white flowers grow in panicles, and its fruits mature from green to yellow, eventually turning brown. Hunik trees are easily recognized by their silvery-hairy leaves (Stone, 1970).



## Propagation

Hunik fruits contain a couple of seeds and germinate within several weeks to 3 months. The species can also be propagated by cuttings and air-layering.

## Uses

Hunik wood is not durable, but has been used for shoe lasts on Guam (Safford, 1905). Its leaves are used for wiping goggles to prevent fogging. Other islands use hunik for medicinal purposes. F&SRD will outplant these species on beach parks and other urban areas near the sea.

## References:

- Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 1991. *Trees and Shrubs of the Northern Mariana Islands*. Coastal Resources Management, Office of the Governor, CNMI. 120p.
- Safford, W.E. 1905. *The Useful Plants of the Island of Guam*. Washington Government Printing Office. 416p.
- Stone, B.C. 1970. *The Flora of Guam*. Micronesica vol. 6. University of Guam. 657 p.

## For Further Information:

Department of Agriculture, Guam Forestry & Soil Resources Division  
Phone: (671) 735-3949/51  
Fax: (671) 734-0111  
163 Dairy Rd Mangilao, Guam 96913  
[www.guamforestry.org](http://www.guamforestry.org)