



Forestry Native Plants of Guam Series  
**BINĀLO/KILULU**

**Botanical Name:** *Thespesia populnea*  
**Common Name:** Pacific Rosewood  
**Native Range:** Native to many Pacific Islands

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### Description

Binalo is a medium sized tree (can grow up to 50ft) that grows naturally only in the Mariana Islands and throughout tropical areas of the Pacific (Stone, 1970). It is commonly found on the beach strand, along river, mouths, and can be found on limestone terraces not far from the coast. Binalo produces attractive yellow flowers and fruits that mature from green to brown.



### Propagation

Fruits of Binalo can contain more than 4 seeds and germinate within 2 weeks after sowing. Clipping the seed jacket will hasten germination. Binalo plants are quick growing and can be ready to transplant within 4 months upon germination.

### Uses

On Guam, Binalo wood has been used for tool handles, and its bark for medicine. Binalo wood has also been known to be used for fence stalks, and its inner bark for cordage (inferior to *Hibiscus tiliaceus* 'Pāgo') (Raulerson & Rinehart, 1991). F&SRD continues to plant this species in beach parks and other Guam Forestry projects.

### References:

- Stone, B.C. 1970. The Flora of Guam. Micronesica vol. 6. University of Guam. 657 p.
- Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 1991. *Trees and Shrubs of the Northern Mariana Islands*. Coastal Resources Management, O

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