



**Botanical Name:** *Intsia bijuga*  
**Common Name:** Ifit  
**Native Range:** Indian Ocean Islands to Pacific Islands

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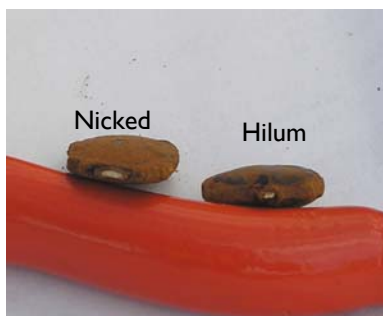


### Description

Ifit is a medium to large tree that is termite resistant (Stone, 1970). It's bark is grayish and the wood is dark red. Ifit is common to Guam and Rota, but rare on Tinian and Saipan (Raulerson & Rinehart, 1991). Ifit has a wide range of habitats from mangrove swamp edges to coral limestone (Stone, 1970). The dark green leaves are compound with four leaflets. Ifit flowers occur in clusters at the end of the branches, and the pods mature from green to dark brown (Raulerson & Rinehart, 1991; Vogt & Williams, 2004).

### Propagation

Ifit pods contains 1-6 seeds. Seeds may take up to several months or even years to germinate. To hasten germination, seedcoats need to be slightly nicked opposite of the hilum (where the seed is attached to the seed pod) until white tissue is visible. Be careful not to cut too much or the seeds won't germinate. Ifit seeds germinate 1-3 weeks after sowing.



### Uses

Historically, Ifit was the primary source of timber for homes and furniture on Guam, and large trees have been over-harvested. Today, ifit used for carvings, furniture, tools, plaques, and much more. F&SRD produces Ifit seedlings for urban and reforestation planting activities.

### References:

- Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 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.
- 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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