



NONAK

Botanical Name: *Hernandia sonora*
Common Name: Lantern tree
Native Range: Pacific Islands

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Description

Nonak is a large, handsome tree (up to 60ft) that is found in the Mariana Islands and other Pacific Islands (Raulerson & Rinehart, 1991). It is commonly found on coastal areas along seashores and river mouths. Nonak's flowers are silvery-white and occur in clusters. Its fruit contains one seed.

Propagation

Nonak is propagated by seeds which should be removed from seed jacket before sowing. Seeds can germinate 1 month after sowing, but can take as long as six months.



Uses

Nonak was known to be used for canoes, but not favored as its wood waterlogs quickly (Safford, 1905). It is known to be used medicinally on Guam. The seeds, leaves and bark are used to induce vomiting; the sap of leaves can be used for hair removal (Raulerson & Rinehart, 1991; Safford, 1905). F&SRD is currently learning to grow nonak in the nursery and plans to outplant the attractive tree in urban and rural areas.

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.

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