



SOPHORA

Botanical Name: *Sophora tomentosa*
Common Name: Silver Bush
Native Range: Pantropical

Author: Kristine Borja
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Description

Sophora is a small tree (up to 12ft tall) with round ended, oval shaped, silvery gray leaves. It has a strong smell that is not so pleasant. Its flowers are yellow, and grow at the end of the branches. It is found near the ocean on rocks and terraces. It is not common on Guam but can be found in places like the Marine Laboratory of the University of Guam, on rocky cliffs and on sandy beaches (Moore, 1979). There are also several patches at Ritidian and Tagachang.



Propagation

The seeds are pea-like and can be easily propagated. Germination occurs 1-2 months after sowing. Overnight soaking of the seeds may speed up germination. Growth after propagation is quick.

Uses

Uses of *Sophora* are unknown on Guam. The roots and seeds contain an alkaloid. They are crushed and used as a medicine to treat dysentery (intestine infection), cholera, tertian malaria and as an antidote for consuming poisonous marine life. Too big of a dosage is dangerous, however. (Raulerson & Rinehart, 1991)

References:

- Moore, P.H. and P.D. McMakin. 1979. *Plants of Guam*.
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Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 1991. *Trees and Shrubs of the Northern Mariana Islands*.
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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