



Botanical Name: *Bikkia tetrandra*
Common Name: Torch wood
Native Range: Endemic to the Marianas Islands

Author: Devin Frazier & Thera Santos
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Description

Gausali is a shrub (up to 10ft) which naturally is found in the Marianas Islands (Raulerson & Rhinehart, 1991). It commonly found growing on undisturbed faces of limestone cliffs usually close to the ocean. Its attractive white flower was once nominated to be the territorial flower of Guam. Its seed pod consist of 100-plus tiny seeds.



Propagation

Gausali can be propagated by seeds broadcasted on limestone rocks or peat moss. Germination occurs within three to four weeks. Seedlings should be transplanted into individual pot containers within several weeks from germination, shortly after they become an inch to two inches in height to one gallon pots. After 6-8 months of growing in pots, plants can be transplanted into areas rocky (limestone) areas or limestone soil.

Uses

Stems of the Gausali cut into short pieces can be used as candles (Raulerson & Rhinehart, 1991) while the wood itself can be used to make torches. Guam Forestry promotes Gausali through planting projects in the community.

References:

Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 1991. *Trees and Shrubs of the Northern Mariana Islands*. Coastal Resources Management, O

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