



PANAO

Botanical Name: *Guettarda speciosa*
Common Name: Zebra wood
Native Range: Pacific Islands

Author: Joseph Tuquero
Photos: Forestry & Soil Resources Division (F&SRD)
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Description

Panao is a small tree that produces small white-yellowish, fragrant flowers and fruits that mature from green to white-yellow. It is native to Guam and many Pacific Islands. Panao is commonly found on sandy or rocky coasts, but can be found scattered in limestone forests (Stone, 1970). Its leaves are large (larger than Talisai (*Terminalia catappa*)) and round which makes it easy to identify.

Propagation

The fruit of panao obtains at least 3 seeds that may be difficult to remove from its husk. The husk can be trimmed to allow water to enter toward seeds. Panao seeds germinate 1-3 months after sowing. Seedlings should be carefully removed from the husk before transplanting into pots.



Uses

Panao has been known to be used for timber such as construction boards (Raulerson & Rinehart, 1991), and is supposedly used for medicinal purposes. Flowers are used for mwarmwar (flower headbands) decoration. F&SRD promotes panao to be planted in public landscapes and disturbed limestone forests.

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.

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