

GAUSÅLI

Botanical Name: *Bikkia tetrandra*

Common Name: Torchwood

Native range: Western Pacific Region (including the Marianas)



Description: Gausåli is an attractive evergreen shrub or small tree (up to 16 ft.). Its white flowers have a long tubular shape, expanding out like a trumpet. The petals are squared off with four anthers at the center. The seeds are 2-celled capsules that are fibrous, woody, and elongated.

Uses and cultural significance: Gausåli is a popular symbol of native ecology and cultural resilience in Guam. It can be seen growing along limestone cliffs and rocks around the island. Traditionally it has been used in medicine as well as for a decoration at parties or weddings. Its wood is ideal for making candles or torches as it has flammable elements.

How To Grow and Care For This Plant

Sun	Water	Soil	Fertilizer	Pests+Diseases
Full sun.	Water regularly, letting the soil dry out between waterings.	Grows well in limestone rocks and well-draining soils with a pH of 5-7.	Apply a fertilizer of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, with a ratio of 1-1-1 or 2-1-1.	
Propagation		Gausåli can be propagated by seed and sown into limestone rocks and well-draining soils.		

- Resources:**
- UOG College of Natural and Applied Sciences. (2025). *Native Flowers of Guam*. University of Guam. https://www.uog.edu/_resources/files/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Native_Flowers_ebook.pdf
 - Plantiary. (2025). *Torchwood: Bikkia tetrandra*. https://plantiary.com/plant/bikkia-tetrandra_31445.html
 - Wikicommons (photo sources)

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