

# IFIT

**Botanical Name:** *Intsia bijuga*  
**Native range:** Indian Ocean to Pacific Ocean

**Common Name:** Moluccan ironwood



**Description:** Ifit is the territorial tree of Guam, indigenous to the Marianas. It is a medium-to-large tree (up to 40 ft.) with pinnate, leathery leaves. Ifit flowers are usually white with a red center - but may be pink or red - and distinctive green sepals.

**Uses and cultural significance:** Ifit is used for wind screens and erosion control. Its bark has medicinal properties and is also used to make dyes, while the seed oil produces an insect repellent. Ifit is known for its durable, termite-resistant wood that becomes even harder after it has been cut. This tree was once the most important source of timber for homes and construction in Guam, and is still sought after by traditional carvers.

## How To Grow and Care For This Plant

Sun	Water	Soil	Fertilizer	Pests+Diseases
Full sun.	Needs a moderate amount of water; let soil dry out between waterings.	Prefers rocky, well-drained soils with a pH of 6.1-7.4. Found in limestone and coastal soils and along mangrove swamps.	For calcium-deficient soils, add dolomite or calcium sulfate. Adding superphosphate or rock phosphate will optimize growth and yield.	Jumping plant lice or psyllid.  Phellinus noxius and nematodes.

<b>Propagation</b>	Ifit is propagated by seed. Seed pods may be collected from the tree or the ground, and can be stored for years. Ifit can also be propagated by seedlings or bareroot.
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**Resources:**

- Bucayu-Laurent, C., Hollyer, J.R., Loerzel, Iriarte, I. Guam Department of Agriculture Forestry & Soil Resources Division. (2017). *Ifit Intsia bijuga*.
- Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 2021. *Trees and shrubs of the Northern Marianas Islands*. University of Guam Press, Guam. 37p.
- Wikicommons (photo sources)

**Guam DOAG Forestry and Soil Resources Division**  
163 Dairy Rd Mangilao, GU 96913  
Forestry@doag.guam.gov | (671) 300-7975/77

