

# PAIPAI

**Botanical Name:** *Meiogyne cylindrocarpa*  
**Native range:** Mariana Islands

**Common Name:** Fingersop



**Description:** Paipai is a small, compact understory tree (up to 20 ft.) endemic to the Marianas. Its mature leaves are dark green, glossy and stiff, while young leaves may be pale pink- or cream-colored and hang limply. The fruit of the tree is elongated and cylindrical, and is green when unripe, turning red to orange when ripe. It resembles a finger, hence the name "fingersop". The fruit has a sweet flavor with floral undertones, often compared to sapodilla.

**Uses and cultural significance:** Paipai can be used an ornamental tree, and the fruits are eaten by bats and birds. This tree is the most numerous endemic tree in Guam.

## How To Grow and Care For This Plant

| Sun                        | Water   | Soil   | Fertilizer | Pests+Diseases |
|----------------------------|---|--|------------|----------------|
| Full sun or partial shade. | Water regularly to keep the soil consistently moist. Be careful not to overwater. | Grows in limestone forests. Likes well-drained soils with a pH of 6-7. |            |                |

### Propagation

Paipai is propagated from seed, air-layering, and seedlings found on the ground beneath the tree. Paipai is capable of fruiting within 2-5 years.

- Resources:**
- Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 2021. *Trees and shrubs of the Northern Marianas Islands*. University of Guam Press, Guam. 11p.
  - Wikicommons (photo sources)

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