

SAYÅFI

Botanical Name: *Melochia villosissima*

Common Name:

Native range: Northwest Pacific Islands (South Iwo Jima to the Micronesian Islands)



Description: Sayåfi is endemic to northwest Pacific Ocean islands, including the Marianas. It is a small pioneer tree (up to 25 ft.) often found along roadsides. Sayåfi grows clusters of pink flowers.

Uses and cultural significance: Sayåfi is planted as an ornamental for its beautiful flowers, of which also attract butterflies. In Yap, Sayåfi is a fast-growing, secondary “bandage tree” that grows in disturbed areas. It covers soil and reduces erosion.

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 in limestone soils, in open areas and forest edges.	Does not necessarily need fertilizer.	

Propagation

Resources:

- Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 2021. *Trees and shrubs of the Northern Marianas Islands*. University of Guam Press, Guam. 64p.
- Wikicommons (photo sources)

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