

TALISAI

Botanical Name: *Terminalia catappa*
Native range: Africa, Asia, and Mariana Islands

Common Name: Pacific almond



Description: Talisai is a tall tree (up to 90 ft.) though typically is shorter in the Marianas due to typhoons. Its large leaves are rough and papery, and its flowers are small and white or cream-colored. The tree is known for its edible seeds and distinctive, broad leaves that turn red before falling.

Uses and cultural significance: Talisai is an excellent shade tree. Its reddish wood that is used for timber, troughs, carts, and posts. Seeds are edible (can be roasted with caramel). The juice from young leaves can be consumed to cure headaches and colic. In Fiji and Samoa, hollowed Talisai trunks are used to make drums.

How To Grow and Care For This Plant

Sun	Water	Soil	Fertilizer	Pests+Diseases
Full sun.	Water regularly to keep the soil evenly moist.	Well-drained, loamy soil that is rich in organic matter and has a pH of 5-7.	Apply a balanced fertilizer every few months to support early, healthy growth.	Termites and scale insects. Leaf spot.

Propagation	Talisai is propagated by seeds and cuttings. Seeds should be soaked in water for 24 hours before planting. Cuttings should be taken from healthy, mature trees.
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Resources:

- Raulerson, L. and Rinehart, A. 2021. *Trees and shrubs of the Northern Marianas Islands*. University of Guam Press, Guam. 27p.
- Wikicommons (photo sources)

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

