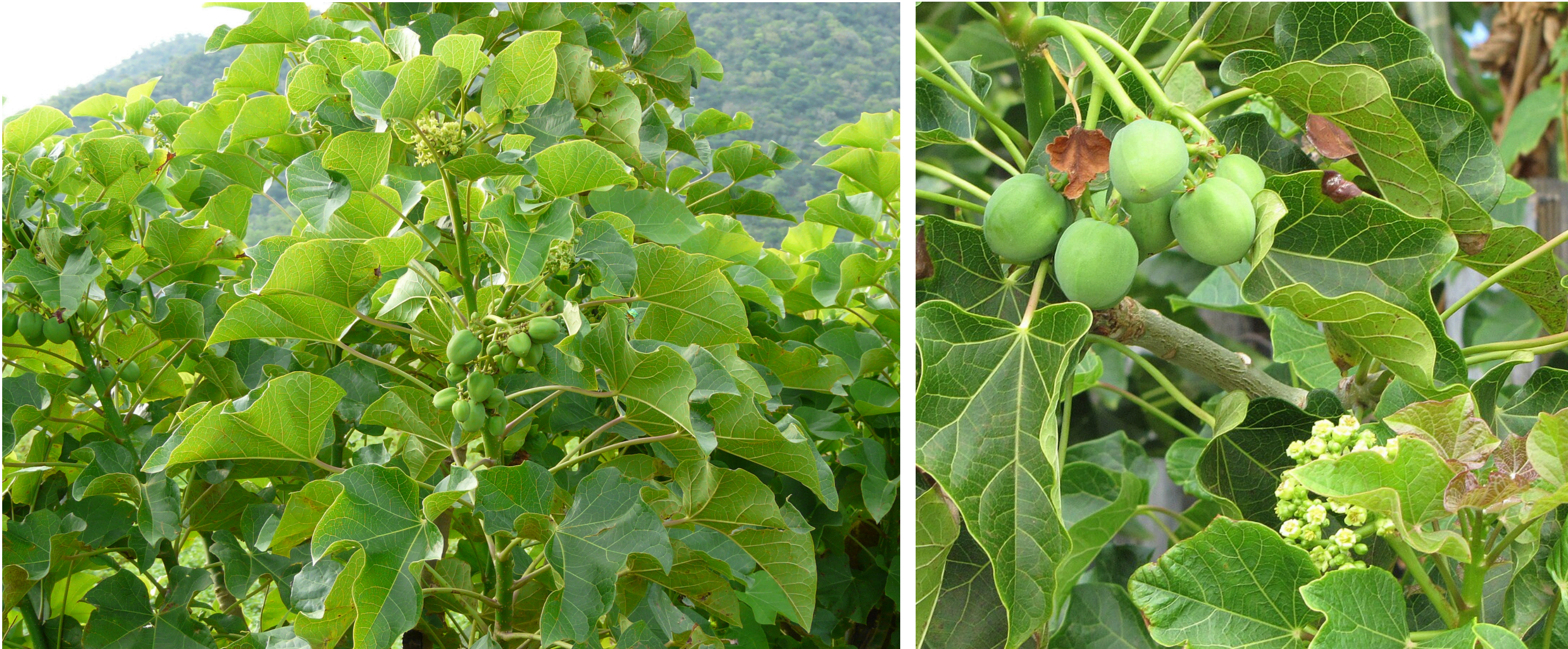


# TUBA TUBA

**Botanical Name:** *Jatropha curcas*

**Common Name:** Barbados nut, Bubble bush

**Native range:** Mexico and Central America



**Description:** Tuba Tuba is a semi-evergreen shrub or small tree (up to 20 ft.). It can be found throughout arid and semiarid tropical region of the world. Each fruit contains 2-3 oblong seeds. The plant contains the toxin, phorbol esters, and should not be consumed. But there is a Mexican variety of *Jatropha* that is non-toxic and edible.

**Uses and cultural significance:** Tuba Tuba is toxic to both humans and pets. All parts of the plant contain toxic compounds, however, it does have some medicinal properties. The root extract can be used topically for wounds and skin infections, while the seed oil can treat rheumatism. The seed oil is additionally used to make biodiesel fuel.

## How To Grow and Care For This Plant

Sun	Water	Soil	Fertilizer	Pests+Diseases
Full or partial sun.	Water regularly, letting the soil dry out between waterings.	Can tolerate a range of soil types but grows best in well-drained, loamy soils with a pH of 6-8.	Apply a balanced fertilizer with an N-P-K ratio of 10-10-10 during growing season.	Mealy bugs, white flies, and leaf miners.

### Propagation

Tuba Tuba is propagated by seeds and cuttings. Some have found that trees grown from seed produce more fruits than those grown from cutting.

**Resources:**

- Elsevier. (2008). *Jatropha curcas*. ScienceDirect. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/jatropha-curcas>
- Wikicommons (photo sources)

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

