



Chopak

Mammea odorata

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Native Plants of Guam

Chopak is a medium-sized tree native to the Mariana islands and other Pacific islands. In the Marianas, Chopak is commonly found in limestone forests along coastal cliffs and slopes. Its general appearance is similar to that of Da'ok (*Calophyllum inophyllum*) with a wide, spreading crown, and large leathery leaves. This tree was once an important source of timber.

Other Common Names: Chopag, Fetau lei, Ijoo, Liveus, Lubodol, Luwas, Odebisech, Rifiouth, Savairing, Vetao, Voi

Synonyms: *Calophyllum excelsum*, *Calysaccion obovale*, *Calysaccion tinctorium*

Family Name: Clusiaceae

Plant Appearance

Distinctive feature: Chopak flowers grow singly along branches below the leaves or even on the trunk. Chopak leaves curve down, in contrast to Da'ok leaves which typically curve up. Chopak seeds are oblong, in contrast to round Da'ok seeds.

Leaf

Shape: Obovate, rounded at the apex and narrow towards the base

Arrangement: Opposite

Type: Simple

Flower

Size: Two sepals 7-9 mm. and six petals 10-17 mm.

Color: Petals are white with numerous yellow stamens.

Shape: Reflexed, petals are fully bent

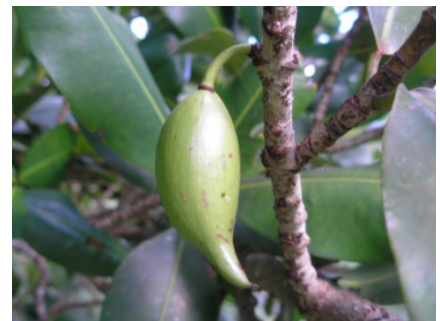
Arrangement: Numerous stamens appear along the branches below the leaves.



Chopak flower^b.



Chopak leaves^c.



Chopak fruit^a.



Chopak seeds^a.



Chopak seedlings^c.

Flowering period: Year-round

Habit

Typical height: Up to 30 ft.

Fruit

Type: Dry, indehiscent

Size: 2-3 in. in length, oblong, wide at base, pointed and curved at tip

Color: Dark brown

Number of seeds: 1

Edible: No

Growing Your Own

PROPAGATION

Form: Seed

Seed collection: Collect seeds from the tree or around the tree. Dry them.

Seed treatment: Seed coats may be scarified or removed.

Germination time: 1-5 months

Planting depth: Not deeper than twice the size of the seed

Pre-planting: Seeds root about 4-6 weeks after sowing. Stem and leaves emerge several weeks after rooting.

Special hints: Remove outer husk and soak for 24 hrs.

Pollinators: Bats, birds, and insects

Production Conditions

pH value: 6.1-7.4

Water: Moderate

Salt tolerance: Moderate

Wind tolerance: High

Soil characteristics: Limestone, calcareous, loamy, sandy

Light: Partly shady

Space requirement: 8-15 ft.

Growth rate: 1-3 ft. per year

Growth direction: Upward

Fertilizer: General complete

Pruning: Occasional for structure

Risks

Near surface roots: Yes

Limb breakage: Low

Special considerations: None

Pests: Chinese rose beetle, grasshoppers, mealybugs

How to Use This Plant

With Ifit (*Instia bijuga*), Chopak was one of the main sources of timber for Guam in the past. The dense, fine-grained wood is very durable. Chopak is now used in reforestation efforts and some urban applications.

Agroforestry: Shade tree

Wildlife: None

Medicinal: The bark is used in medicinal preparations.

Other uses: Dye (obtained from red heartwood), latex, posts and beams in house construction, tool handles, construction of bull carts

References and Resources

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Notes

This publication is an update of: Justin Santos. 2007. *Chopak*. Guam Department of Agriculture. 2pp.

For Further Information

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