

# CHIUTE Cebera dilatata

Joseph Tuquero and Christine B. Laurent Cooperative Extension & Outreach, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, University of Guam

Chiute is a small-to-medium-sized tree that is endemic to the Mariana Islands. On Guam, Chiute can be found growing in savannah and ravine areas. It can be found in a wide range of habitats.

Other Common Names: Atilas, Chuti, Native

plumeria

Synonyms: Unknown

Family Name: Apocynaceae

# Plant appearance

**Distinctive feature:** Chiute has plumeria-like flowers that are fragrant and attractive. The fruits, when still green, look like a small mango and when mature, the it turns from purple-maroon to brown. The fruits are smooth and shiny with whitish, tiny spots. The seeds are poisonous.

Leaf

**Shape:** Lanceolate

**Arrangement:** Alternate

Type: Simple

**Flower** 

**Size:** 2.0-2.8 in.

Color: White and pinkish in the center

**Shape:** Stellate, star-shaped with five petals and

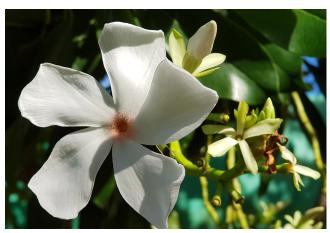
tubular corolla

**Arrangement:** Compound cyme **Flowering period:** Year-round

Habit

**Typical height:** Average 8-25 ft. and can grow up to

30 ft.



Chiute flowers<sup>a</sup>.

**Fruit** 

Type: Drupe

**Size:** Average 0.89 x 0.59 in.

Color: Green when immature and turns purple-

maroon to brown when ripe

Number of seeds: 1

Edible: No, seeds are poisonous

## **Growing Your Own**

Form: Seed and cuttings

**Seed collection:** Select seeds from healthy and mature fruits that can be collected either from the tree or

ground.

Seed treatment: Remove seed coat to hasten

germination.

**Germination time:** 2 months

**Planting depth:** No deeper than twice the size of the

seed

**Pre-planting:** Seedlings from 1-gallon pots will be ready for transplant in 4-6 months after initial germination. Ensure shoot growth is at least 1 ft. above pot height and no taller than 2 ft. and ensure



Chiute leaves<sup>a</sup>.

girth is at least 0.50 in. in diameter.

**Special hints:** Ensure adequate water and fertilize as needed.

### **Production conditions**

**pH value:** 6.0-7.2 (slightly acidic - neutral)

Water: Do not overwater but media should be kept

moist

**Salt tolerance:** Low **Wind tolerance:** High

Soil characteristics: Well-drained soils

Light: Full sun, can tolerate shade

**Space requirement:** 8-15 ft. **Growth rate:** 1-3 ft. per year

**Growth direction:** Upwards, crown spreading **Fertilizer:** For outplants, apply small amounts of complete fertilizer once every 3-4 months for one (1)

year.



Chiute fruita.

**Pruning:** Prune dead branches. Prune as necessary for structure and crown thinning. Prune no more than 25 percent of plant every 4-6 months.

#### **Risks**

Near surface roots: None Limb breakage: Medium

**Special considerations:** The milky sap from the tree

and other plant parts may be poisonous.

**Pests:** Oleander hawk moth, wild pigs (rooting)

# How to use this plant

Chiute is recommended for reforestation of grasslands and urban forestry projects in the landscape.

**Agroforestry:** Landscape, reforestation

Wildlife: Food source

**Medicinal:** Leaf - after childbirth, leaf decoction is used for aromatic bath; Bark, leaves, and latex - used as purgative; Fruits excluding seeds - used for rheumatism.

Other uses: Inner bark is used as fiber; seed oil is used

as a source to lamp oil.



Chiute seeda.

## **Photo Credits**

a. Christine B. Laurent

# **Acknowledgements**

Special thanks to Jim Hollyer for his valuable contribution in the completion of this factsheet.

#### **Notes**

This publication is an update of: Kristine Borja. 2007. Sophora. Guam Department of Agriculture. 2pp.



Chiute seedling<sup>a</sup>.

#### Reference

Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 1991. Trees and Shrubs of the Northern Mariana Islands. Coastal Resources Management, Office of the Governor, CNMI. 120p.

Vogt, S.R. and L.L. Williams. 2004. Common Flora and Fauna of the Mariana Islands. 158p.

#### For further information

Forestry & Soil Resources Division Guam Department of Agriculture

Phone: (671) 735-3949/51 Fax: (671) 734-0111

163 Dairy Rd, Mangilao, Guam 96913

http://forestry.guam.gov/

This is a continuation of the first set of 9 Native Tree factsheets in collaboration with Guam Department of Agriculture and USDA which is found in this link: http://cnas-re.uog.edu/useful-cnas-documents-posters/?wpv\_aux\_current\_post\_id=3189&wpv\_view\_count=3187-TCPID3189&wpv\_paged=2.

## In cooperation with



Published by the College of Natural & Applied Sciences (CNAS), University of Guam, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Dr. Lee S. Yudin, Director/Dean. University of Guam, CNAS, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923. Copyright 2019. For reproduction and use permission, contact cnascommunications@triton.uog.edu, (671) 735-2000. The University of Guam is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing programs and services to the people of Guam without regard to race, sex, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, arrest and court record, sexual orientation, or status as a covered veteran. Find CNAS publications at CNAS-RE.uog.edu.