



Sophora

Sophora tomentosa

Native Plants of Guam

Sophora is a small tree found near the ocean, on rocky cliffs, and sandy beaches. It is fast-growing and can reach up to 12 feet with several arching stems. It exudes a smell like beans.

Other Common Names: Moodu murunga, Necklace pod, Sea-coast Laburnum, Silver bush, Tambalisa, Yellow necklace pod, Yellow sophora

Synonyms: *Sophora occidentalis*

Family Name: Fabaceae

Plant Appearance

Distinctive feature: The pods start to develop like strings and later become constricted between seeds. The constricted pods look like beads on a necklace, giving the plant its name.

Leaf

Shape: Round ended, oval-shaped
Arrangement: Alternate, odd-pinnate
Type: Compound

Flower

Size: Petals are about 0.75-1.0 in. long. The whole inflorescence is about 4-20 in. long.

Color: Yellow

Shape: Pea-like and papilionaceous (like a butterfly)

Arrangement: Raceme (cluster of flowers equally distributed along the stem)

Flowering period: All year

Habit

Typical height: It can grow up to 12 ft.

Fruit

Type: Bean pod, indehiscent

Size: About 2-8 in. long

Color: Yellow and turns brown when dried



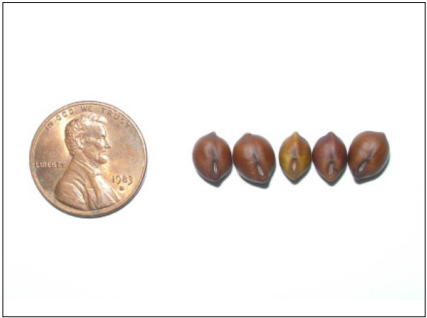
Sophora flowers^b.



Sophora leaves^c.



Sophora fruit^a.



Sophora seeds^a.



Sophora seedling^a.

Number of seeds: 6-8/pod

Edible: No

Growing Your Own

PROPAGATION

Form: Seeds and cuttings

Seed collection: Collect seeds from mature fruits from the tree or the ground.

Seed treatment: Overnight soaking of the seeds may speed germination.

Germination time: 1-2 months

Planting depth: No deeper than 0.4-0.6 in.

Pre-planting: None

Special hints: None

Pollinators: Bees and butterflies

Production Conditions

pH value: 7.2-8.4 (neutral to calcareous)

Water: Low

Salt tolerance: High

Wind tolerance: High

Soil characteristics: Moist, well-drained sandy (sandy loam or medium loam) or limestone soils

Light: Full sun or light shade

Space requirement: None

Growth rate: 1-3 ft. per year

Growth direction: Spreading with many irregular arching branches

Fertilizer: Applying organic content on the potting mix will help the seedlings thrive.

Pruning: Occasional pruning is required once established.

Risks

Near surface roots: None

Limb breakage: Low

Pests: Caterpillars and mealybugs are rare problems for this plant. However, if infested, insecticides can treat these persistent pests.

How to Use This Plant

Sophora is best used where there is good air circulation. It is a fast grower; however, its rangy growth habit makes it unsuitable as a formal hedge.

Agroforestry: Accent, specimen plant, background, border plant

Medicinal: The roots and seeds contain alkaloid compounds. When crushed, they can be used to treat intestinal disorders and tertiary malaria. It may also serve as an antidote to intake of poisonous marine life.

Other uses: None

References and Resources

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Photo Credits

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Notes

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For Further Information

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