



# NATIVE PLANTS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS FOR WILDLIFE AND ORNAMENTAL USE



*Protect our Sea, Plant a Tree*

# NATIVE PLANTS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FOR WILDLIFE AND ORNAMENTAL USE

Prepared by  
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in partnership with the Laolao Bay Pride Campaign

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- Most ornamental trees in parks, gardens, roadsides are not from the Mariana Islands
- Using local species is beneficial for Mariana Islands wildlife

**Endemic:** only found in the Mariana Islands

**Indigenous:** native to the Mariana Islands, but also found in other regions.





AGLAIA MARIANNENSIS

# AGLAIA MARIANNENSIS

Local name	Mapunyao
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Needs shade. Grows in limestone or volcanic soils
Size	Small to medium tree
Propagation	Transplant seedlings found under mature tree. Hard to germinate from seed
Uses	Ornamental, fence stakes, firewood
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by wildlife



AIDIA COCHINCHINENSIS

# AIDIA COCHINCHINENSIS

Local name	Sumak
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Full sun. Colonizer of disturbed areas. Limestone soil
Size	Shrub to small tree
Propagation	Seeds, cuttings. Fast-growing
Uses	Ornamental, Medicinal, fragrance, construction
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by birds; attracts butterflies



BIKKIA TETRANDBRA



# BIKKIA TETRANDRA

Local name	Gausali
English name	Torchwood
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Coastal. Grows directly out of limestone rock
Size	Shrub
Propagation	Seeds
Uses	Ornamental, stems used as candles
Wildlife use	Flowers attract insects



CALOPHYLLUM INOPHYLLUM

# CALOPHYLLUM INOPHYLLUM

Local name	Da'ok
English name	Mastwood
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Variety of soils
Size	Large tree
Propagation	Seeds
Uses	Shade tree, windbreak, construction, medicine
Wildlife benefit	Used by wildlife for shelter



CERBERA DILATATA

# CERBERA DILATATA

Local name	Chiute
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Clay soil, limestone
Size	Medium to large tree
Propagation	Seeds, cuttings
Uses	Ornamental, fragrance
Wildlife use	Flowers attract insects



CORDIA SUBCORDATA

# CORDIA SUBCORDATA

Local name	Niyoron
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Near coast, limestone. Grows in disturbed areas
Size	Shrub/small tree
Propagation	Seeds, cuttings
Uses	Ornamental use, woodcarving
Wildlife use	Attracts butterflies



CYCAS MICRONESICA



# CYCAS MICRONESICA

Local name	Fadang
English name	Cycad
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Clay/limestone soil
Size	Shrub/small tree
Propagation	Seeds, cuttings
Uses	Ornamental
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by bats



CYNOMETRA RAMIFLORA

# CYNOMETRA RAMIFLORA

Local name	Gulos
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Limestone soils
Size	Small to medium tree
Propagation	Seeds (only produces in some years)
Uses	Ornamental
Wildlife use	Nest sites



DISCOCALYX MEGACARPA

# DISCOCALYX MEGACARPA

Local name	Otot
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Shady areas on limestone, along stream on clay soil
Size	Shrub
Propagation	Seeds
Uses	Ornamental, edible fruit
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by wildlife



ELAEOCARPUS JOGA

# ELAEOCARPUS JOGA

Local name	Joga
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Limestone soils. Guam and Rota only
Size	Large tree
Propagation	Seeds (need to be digested by birds)
Uses	Ornamental
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by birds and bats



ERYTHRINA VARIEGATA VAR. ORIENTALIS



# ERYTHRINA VARIEGATA VAR. ORIENTALIS

Local name	Gaogao
English name	Coral tree, tigerclaw
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Limestone
Size	Large tree
Propagation	Seeds, cuttings. Fast-growing
Uses	Ornamental, shade tree, firewood, medicine
Wildlife use	Nectar eaten by birds and bats



EUGENIA PALUMBIS

# EUGENIA PALUMBIS

Local name	Agatelang
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Limestone, shaded areas
Size	Shrub
Propagation	Seeds
Uses	Ornamental, hedges, edible fruit
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by birds



FICUS TINCTORIA

# FICUS TINCTORIA

Local name	Hoda
English name	Dyer's Fig
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Limestone, shoreline
Size	Medium tree
Propagation	Seeds
Uses	Medicinal
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by birds



GUAMIA MARIANNAE

# GUAMIA MARIANNAE

Local name	Paipai
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Limestone soils. Shades areas
Size	Small tree
Propagation	Seeds
Uses	Ornamental, shade tree
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by birds and bats



HERNANDIA LABYRINTHICA



# HERNANDIA LABYRINTHICA

Local name	Oschal
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	High elevations
Size	Large tree
Propagation	Seed, cuttings
Uses	Ornamental, shade tree
Wildlife use	Nesting sites, food for Rota White-eye



HERNANDIA SONORA



# HERNANDIA SONORA

Local name	Nonak
English name	Lantern tree
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Coastal areas
Size	Large tree
Propagation	Seed, cuttings
Uses	Ornamental, shade tree
Wildlife use	Used by birds for nesting



HIBISCUS TILIACEUS

# HIBISCUS TILIACEUS

Local name	Pago
English name	Beach hibiscus
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Tolerates a wide range of conditions
Size	Small to medium tree
Propagation	Seed, cuttings
Uses	Ornamental, shade tree, rope, medicine, furniture, canoes
Wildlife use	Attracts butterflies



INTSIA BIJUGA

# INTSIA BIJUGA

Local name	Ifit
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Suited to most sites
Size	Medium to large tree
Propagation	Seeds
Uses	Ornamental, shade tree, wood carving, construction
Wildlife use	Used by birds for nesting



MELANOLEPIS MULTIGLANDULOSA VAR. GLABRATA





# MELANOLEPIS MULTIGLANDULOSA VAR. GLABRATA

Local name	Alum
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Limestone, volcanic soils, pioneer in disturbed areas
Size	Small to medium tree
Propagation	Seeds, cuttings
Uses	Ornamental, medicinal
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by birds



MELOCHIA VILLOSISSIMA VAR. COMPACTA

# MELOCHIA VILLOSISSIMA VAR. COMPACTA

Local name	Sayafe
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Limestone, open areas, forest edges
Size	Shrub to small tree
Propagation	Seeds, cuttings
Uses	Ornamental
Wildlife use	Attracts butterflies



MORINDA CITRIFOLIA

# MORINDA CITRIFOLIA

Local name	Lada
English name	Indian mulberry
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Variety of soils. Colonizer of disturbed areas. Very hardy
Size	Shrub/small tree
Propagation	Seeds, cuttings
Uses	Medicinal, ornamental, dyes
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by wildlife



OCHROSIA MARIANNENSIS

# OCHROSIA MARIANNENSIS

Local name	Langiti
English name	Lipstick tree
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Limestone, exposed areas
Size	Small to medium tree
Propagation	Seeds/cuttings
Uses	Ornamental, medicinal, fragrance, firewood, dyes
Wildlife use	Seeds eaten by wildlife

A close-up photograph of the Piper guahamense plant, showing several large, heart-shaped (cordate) leaves with prominent, dark green veins. The leaves have a glossy, waxy texture and are set against a blurred background of natural foliage and tree trunks. A solid green horizontal bar is positioned at the bottom of the image, containing the plant's name in white text.

PIPER GUAHAMENSE



# PIPER GUAHAMENSE

Local name	Pupulu-n-aniti
English name	Wild pepper
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Wet areas/streams, limestone
Size	Shrub
Propagation	Seeds/root stock
Uses	Medicinal
Wildlife use	N/A



PIPTURUS ARGENTEUS

# PIPTURUS ARGENTEUS

Local name	Amahadyan
English name	Silvery pipturus
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Coast/open areas/forest edge, limestone. Colonizer of disturbed areas
Size	Small tree
Propagation	Seeds/cutting
Uses	Dyes, cloths
Wildlife use	Butterfly attractant, fruit eaten by birds



PISONIA GRANDIS

# PISONIA GRANDIS

Local name	Umumu
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Limestone, sand
Size	Medium to large tree
Propagation	Seeds, cutting
Uses	Canoe parts, fences
Wildlife use	Trees used for nesting by seabirds



PREMNA OBTUSIFOLIA

# PREMNA OBTUSIFOLIA

Local name	Ahgoa
English name	False elder
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Beach/forest edge/colonizer of disturbed areas. Limestone
Size	Small/medium tree
Propagation	Seeds/cuttings. Fast-growing
Uses	Construction, medicinal, fence posts
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by birds and bats



PSYCHOTRIA MARIANA



# PSYCHOTRIA MARIANA

Local name	Aploghating
English name	N/A
CNMI status	Endemic
Requirements	Edge or interior species
Size	Small tree
Propagation	Seeds/cuttings
Uses	Ornamental, shade tree
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by wildlife



SCAEVOLA SERICEA

# SCAEVOLA SERICEA

Local name	Nanaso
English name	Half-flower
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Limestone
Size	Shrub
Propagation	Seeds, cuttings, transplanted seedlings
Uses	Hedge plant, medicinal, construction
Wildlife use	Fruit eaten by birds



TERMINALIA CATAPPA

# TERMINALIA CATAPPA

Local name	Talisai
English name	Pacific almond
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Shady limestone soils
Size	Medium tree
Propagation	Seeds/cuttings
Uses	Shade tree, ornamental, medicine, edible seeds
Wildlife use	Seeds eaten by birds



THESPESIA POPULNEA

# THESPESIA POPULNEA

Local name	Banalo
English name	Rosewood
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Coastal areas, wetlands
Size	Medium tree
Propagation	Seeds/cuttings
Uses	Fenceposts, dyes, shade tree, windbreak, ornamental
Wildlife use	Used by wildlife for shelter



TOURNEFORTIA ARGENTEA



# TOURNEFORTIA ARGENTEA

Local name	Hunik
English name	Velvet leaf
CNMI status	Indigenous
Requirements	Coastal areas
Size	Medium tree
Propagation	Seeds
Uses	Shade tree, ornamental
Wildlife use	Butterfly attractant

# TOP 15 RECOMMENDED PLANTS FOR WILDLIFE

Scientific name	Local name	English name	Size
<i>Aglaia mariannensis</i>	Mapunyao	N/A	Small to medium tree
<i>Aidia cochinchiniensis</i>	Sumak	N/A	Shrub to small tree
<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i>	Da'ok	Mastwood	Large tree
<i>Cerbera dilatata</i>	Chiute	N/A	Medium to large tree
<i>Cordia subcordata</i>	Niyoron	N/A	Shrub to small tree
<i>Eugenia palumbus</i>	Agatelang	N/A	Shrub
<i>Guamia mariannae</i>	Paipai	N/A	Small tree
<i>Intsia bijuga</i>	Ifit	N/A	Medium to large tree
<i>Melanolepis multiglandulosa</i>	Alum	N/A	Small to medium tree
<i>Piper guahamense</i>	Pupula-n-aniti	Wild Pepper	Shrub
<i>Pipturus argenteus</i>	Amahadyan	Silvery pipturus	Small tree
<i>Premna obtusifolia</i>	Ahgao	False elder	Small to medium tree
<i>Pouteria obovata</i>	Lahala	N/A	Small to medium tree
<i>Psychotria mariana</i>	Aploghating	N/A	Small tree
<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	Talisai	Pacific almond	Medium tree

# PLANTS SUITABLE FOR DISTURBED AREAS

<i>Aidia conchinchinesis</i>	Sumak
<i>Cordia subcordata</i>	Niyoron
<i>Melanolepis multiglandulosa</i> var. <i>glabrata</i>	Alum
<i>Morinda citrifolia</i>	Lada
<i>Pipturus</i>	Amahadyan
<i>Premna obtusifolia</i>	Ahgoa

A lush green forest with a semi-transparent text box overlay. The forest is dense with various types of trees and plants, including ferns and palm trees. The text box is white with a green border and contains the title 'A NATURAL FOREST' and a bulleted list of characteristics.

# A NATURAL FOREST

- High diversity
- Multiple layers
- Structure and composition depends on variety of factors including soil, slope, elevation, aspect, water



# PLANT SELECTION

- Not all plants grow everywhere.  
Plants will grow best if the right species is chosen for the site.
- Look at the species descriptions to find out what each species needs
  - What is the soil type?
  - What direction does the site face?
  - Is it open or shady?
  - Is it near the coast? Is it at high elevation?
- Find a species that grows in similar conditions in the wild

# SOURCING NATIVE PLANTS

- Native plants can be grown from cuttings or seeds, or seedlings can be transplanted from the wild
- See species descriptions for best method of propagation
- Consider how big the plant will grow. Is there room for a large tree or do you need a smaller tree or a shrub?



A close-up photograph of a bright yellow bird, possibly a species of warbler or finch, perched on a dark brown branch. The bird is facing right, with its head slightly tilted upwards. Its beak is a vibrant orange. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a dense thicket of leaves. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the bird's feathers and the smooth surface of the leaves.

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- **Avra Heller**
- **Lynn Raulerson and Agnes Rinehart 1991**  
*Tree and shrubs of the Northern Mariana islands*
- **Scott Vogt and Laura Williams 2004**  
*Common Flora and Fauna of the Mariana Islands*



## LAOLAO BAY PRIDE CAMPAIGN

A Campaign Dedicated to Environmental Stewardship, Community Engagement, and Conservation



## PLANT NATIVES

Visit our website at [www.deq.gov.mp](http://www.deq.gov.mp) for more information.



Laolao Bay Pride Campaign