

Expanding Tree Diversity in Hawai'i's Landscapes: Needle Flower, *Posoqueria latifolia*

Needle flower tree has a straight slender trunk reaching to about 30 feet in height with numerous branches that create a dense pyramidal or cone-shaped tree to about 15 feet wide. Leaves are dark green and smooth. It has showy terminal clusters of long slender, tubular, sweet-scented white flowers.

Recommended Use in Landscape

- Specimen, accent
- Public grounds and parks
- Residences
- Screening

Distribution

- Native to the Amazon area of Brazil up into Mexico

Propagation Techniques

- Seed
- Cuttings
- Air layers

Cultural Requirements and Tolerances

- Grows best in a rich well-drained soil with moderate moisture
- Full sun to partial shade
- Avoid salt winds (first exposure sea coast)
- Prune up to use as shade tree

Flower and Fruit Characteristics

- The white flowers are borne in clusters at the tips of branches. Flower is a narrow 6" tube that flares open with 5 lobes to about 1 inch wide. Fragrant.



- Fruit is a translucent yellowish berry about 1¼" in diameter, edible but with poor flavor, and containing numerous seeds.

Leaf Characteristics

- Leaves are broadly ovate, up to 10" long, leathery texture.

Advantages of Use in Landscapes

- Small tree
- Slow-growing
- Evergreen
- Fragrant flowers
- HWRA -2 (not invasive)

Disadvantages of Use in Landscapes

- Avoid windy locations
- Fruits are sticky



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