LULUHUT
Maytenus thompsonii

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Luluhut is a shrub that is usually found in limestone areas, but has been in observed in volcanic soils.

Other Common Names: Lalukut, Luluhod, Luluhot, Lulujot

Synonyms: *Gymnosporia thompsonii*

Family Name: Celastraceae

Plant appearance

Distinctive feature: Luluhut leaves are rounded with medium serrations and reddish petioles. It has white flowers and the fruit splits open when dried.

Leaf

Shape: Rounded

Arrangement: Alternate

Type: Simple

Flower

Size: About 0.50-0.75 in. wide

Color: White

Shape: Stellate (star-shaped)

Arrangement: Cluster and grows in the leaf axil

Flowering period: Year round

Habit

Typical height: Up to 25 ft.

Fruit

Type: Dehiscent (opens when mature)

Size: Average size is about 0.35 in. in diameter

Color: Pale green and turns brown when mature

Number of seeds: 3

Edible: Likely for wildlife

Luluhut flowers[a].

Growing your own

Form: Seeds
Seed collection: Collect healthy seeds from the tree or the ground. Seeds are ready for harvest when the fruits split-open.
Seed treatment: Scarification, cracking seed coat (3 capsules in fruit)
Germination time: 1-3 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 girth is at least 0.50 in. in diameter.
Special hints: Ensure adequate water and fertilize as needed.

Luluhut leaves[a].

Production conditions

pH value: 6.5-8 (neutral)
Salt tolerance: Medium
Water: Well-drained and do not over water
Salt tolerance: Medium
Wind tolerance: Medium
Soil characteristics: Primarily limestone soils
Light: Full sun or shade
Space requirement: 6-10 ft.
Growth rate: 1-3 ft. per year
Growth direction: Upwards, spreading branches
Fertilizer: For outplants, apply small amounts of complete fertilizer once every 3-4 months for 1 year.
Pruning: Prune dead branches. Prune as necessary for structure and crown thinning. Prune no more than 25 percent of plant every 4-6 months.

Luluhut fruit[a].

Risks

Near surface roots: Low
Limb breakage: Low
Special considerations: None
Pests: The Mariana wandering butterfly, *Vagrans egistina*, during its larval stage feeds on Luluhut. The caterpillar is brown with black spikes. However, it has been recorded that this butterfly has last been seen in 1979.

How to use this plant

Luluhut can be grown in open and shaded areas. It is a good ornamental plant as well.
Agroforestry: Landscape
Wildlife: Food source, habitat
Medicinal: Yes
Other uses: Unknown

Luluhut seed[a].

Photo credits

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Acknowledgements

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

For further information

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Luluhut seedling[a].

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.

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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.