



Amahatyan (*Pipturus argenteus*)

By Joseph Tuquero and Christine B. Laurent

Introduction

Amahatyan is a small tree that grows primarily on limestone/coralline soils. It is mostly found on coastal/strand areas, open sites, and edges of limestone forests.

Other Common Names: False Stinger, Native Mulberry, Silvery Pipturus, White Mulberry, White Nettle

Synonyms: *Urtica argentea*, *Pipturus argenteus* var. *calcicolus*, *Boehmeria propinqua*, *Pipturus propinquus*

Family Name: Urticaceae

Characteristics

Appearance

Distinctive feature: The leaves are palmately veined, grayish underneath with coarse serrations in the margins. It has small, white fruits that are edible and sweet. They are clustered at the nodes and look like tiny strawberries.

Leaf

Shape: Ovate or elliptical

Arrangement: Alternate



Amahatyan leaves

Type: Simple

Flower

Size: About 0.50 in.

Color: Green with white hair-like structures extending on the sides

Shape: Round

Arrangement: Simple, spike

Flowering period: Year round

Habit

Typical height: Up to 20 ft.

Fruit

Type: Fleshy, mulberry-like

Size: Up to 0.24 in. in diameter

Color: Green

Number of seeds: Many small seeds

Edible: Yes



Amahatyan flowers

Propagation

Form: Seeds or cuttings

Seed collection: Collect seeds from mature and healthy fruits on the tree. Dry them.

Seed treatment: None

Germination time: 1-2 months

Planting depth: Not deeper than twice the size of the seed

Pre-planting: Germinate in individual pots when possible. Plants grown in 1-gallon pots should be transplanted into the ground after 4-6 months.

Special hints: When outplanted, it is best to plant during the months of August to October. Supplemental watering may be required up to 6 months.

Production conditions

pH value: 6.6-7.3 (neutral)

Water: Needs sufficient water but can tolerate drought

Salt tolerance: High

Wind tolerance: Low

Soil characteristics: Good drainage

Light: Full sun

Space requirement: 8-12 ft.

Growth rate: 1-3 ft. per year

Growth direction: Spreading

Fertilizer: Potting media composed of peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite combined with low-release fertilizer and compost is highly recommended.

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: None

Pests: Leafminer (*Lepidoptera*), *Stigmella ebbenielsenii*, *sp. nov.*

How to use this plant

Amahatyan is a fast-growing plant that is good for revegetation.

Agroforestry: Screen

Wildlife: Food source

Medicinal: Used for herbal medicine

Other uses: Fiber for fishing lines, cordage, brown dye (bark)



Amahatyan seeds



Amahatyan fruit



Amahatyan seedling

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This publication is part of a Native Plants of Guam fact sheet series in collaboration with the Guam Department of Agriculture and USDA.

This publication is an update of a 2007 publication completed by Kristine Borja for the Guam Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Soil Resources Division.



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Published: 2019

Updated: June 2024

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