

HODA *Ficus tintoria*

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Hoda is a small-to-medium-sized tree usually found in limestone and shoreline areas. It starts to grow as an epiphyte in the branches of another tree and when it matures, it exhibits a spreading crown.

Other Common Names: Awall, Wacheguy, Osked, Tagete

Synonyms:

Family Name: Moraceae

Plant appearance

Distinctive feature: Hoda leaves are oval and asymmetrical having unequal sides partitioned by the midrib with short and thick stalks. When fruits mature, they turn from orange to red or purple. Fruits grow on the leaf axils.

Leaf

Shape: Lanceolate

Arrangement: Alternate

Type: Simple

Flower

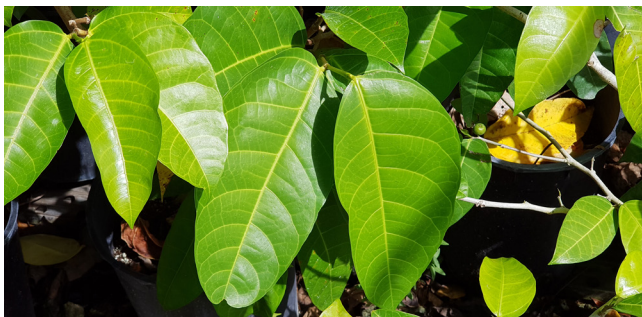
Size: About 0.125 in. long

Color: Yellow-green

Shape: Pointed in the leaf axil

Arrangement: Solitary axillary

Flowering period: Year-round



Hoda leaves^a.



Hoda flowers^a.

Habit

Typical height: Up to 25 ft.

Fruit

Type: Syconus, a collective fleshy fruit where the ovary is hidden within a hollow receptacle

Size: About 0.67 in. in diameter

Color: Light green when immature and turns red orange to purple when mature

Number of seeds: Many

Edible: Yes

Growing your own

Form: Seed and cuttings

Seed collection: Collect seeds from mature and healthy fruits either on the tree or ground. For cuttings, select tip cuttings of about 2-5 in. long from healthy lateral branches.

Seed treatment: None

Germination time: Up to 2 months

Planting depth: Scatter the seeds on top of the soil as they are very tiny.

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, no taller than 2 ft., and ensure girth is at least 0.50 in. in diameter.



Hoda fruit^a.

Special hints: Ensure adequate water and fertilize as needed up to 6 months to 1 year after transplanting from pots.

Production conditions

pH value: 6.0-7.5 (neutral)

Water: Moderate water

Salt tolerance: High

Wind tolerance: High

Soil characteristics: Moist soil

Light: Full sun or shade

Space requirement: 10-20 ft.

Growth rate: 1-3 ft. per year

Growth direction: Upwards, spreading crown

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 no more than 25 percent of plant every 4-6 months.

Risks

Near surface roots: Many

Limb breakage: Low

Special considerations: None

Pests: Unknown

How to use this plant

Hoda is recommended for reforestation purposes. Proper care and maintenance is needed for this plant to grow well.

Agroforestry: Landscape, reforestation

Wildlife: Food for birds

Medicinal: Internal medicine for weakness after childbirth and dressing for broken bones (leaves)

Other uses: Source of red dye (fruit sap and roots), firewood



Hoda seed^a.

Photo credits

a.Christine B. Laurent

Acknowledgements

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For further information

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Hoda seedling^a.

References

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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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