



Botanical Name: *Bikkia tetrandra*
Common Name: Torch wood
Native Range: Marianas Islands

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Description

Gausali is a shrub (10ft) endemic to the Marianas Islands (Raulerson & Rhinehart, 1991). It is commonly found growing on undisturbed limestone cliffs usually close to the ocean. Seed pods contain 100's of tiny seeds. It has an attractive white flower. Gausali is held in very high esteem. Many Guam residents feel it should be the Guam flower.



Propagation

Gausali is easily propagated by seeds broadcasted on fine limestone gravel or peat moss. Germination occurs within three to four weeks. Seedlings should be transplanted into individual containers shortly after they become an inch to two inches in height (with 4 to 6 leaves). After 6-8 months of growing in pots, plants can be transplanted into rocky areas or limestone soil.

Uses

Stems of the Gausali cut into short pieces can be used as candles (Raulerson & Rhinehart, 1991) while the wood itself can be used to make torches. It has medicinal and cultural utility as well as being an attractive addition to private and public landscapes along the coastal and interior settings.

References:

Raulerson, L. and A. Rhinehart. 1991. *Trees and Shrubs of the Northern Mariana Islands*.
Coastal Resources Management,

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