Nonak is a large tree that is found in the Mariana Islands and other Pacific Islands. It is a fast-growing tree commonly found on coastal areas along seashores, mouths of rivers, and also occurs growing in inland forests.

**Other Common Names:** Doko, Hernandia, Jack-in-the-box, Lantern tree

**Synonyms:** *Hernandia peltata*

**Family Name:** Hernandiaceae

### Plant appearance

#### Distinctive feature:
Nonak has soft wood with light grey bark, silvery-white flowers that occur in clusters. The fruit resembles a light-yellow, hollow bell with a dark brown to black seed when mature.

#### Leaf

**Shape:** Broadly ovate and cordate at the base

**Arrangement:** Alternate

**Type:** Simple, Peltate

#### Flower

**Size:** About 1.25 in. wide

**Color:** White

**Shape:** Stellate (star-shaped)

**Arrangement:** Cyme

**Flowering period:** Year round

#### Habit

**Typical height:** Up to 60 ft.

#### Fruit

**Type:** Nut

**Size:** About 1.5 in. in diameter

### Growing your own

**Form:** Seed

**Seed collection:** Collect seeds from healthy and mature fruits. Remove the seed jacket before sowing.

**Seed treatment:** None

**Germination time:** 1 month after sowing but can take up to six (6) months

**Planting depth:** No more 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.

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**Production conditions**

- **pH value:** 6.5-8.0 (neutral to alkaline)
- **Water:** Moderate watering
- **Salt tolerance:** High
- **Wind tolerance:** High
- **Soil characteristics:** Moisture-retentive soil
- **Light:** Full sun
- **Space requirement:** 25-30 ft.
- **Growth rate:** 1-3 ft. per year
- **Growth direction:** Upwards, wide 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. Prune no more than 25 percent of plant every 4-6 months.

**Risks**

- **Near surface roots:** High
- **Limb breakage:** Low
- **Special considerations:** None
- **Pests:** Unknown

**How to use this plant**

Nonak is a fast-growing tree that is well-suited to coastal gardens. It tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and is moderately drought tolerant.

- **Agroforestry:** Ornamental, shade tree
- **Wildlife:** Food source, habitat
- **Medicinal:** Bark, seeds, and leaves are used to induce vomiting; decoction of bark and leaves is used against constipation; sap from the leaves can be used for hair removal; and roots are used as antidote from fish poisoning.
- **Other uses:** Seeds can be burnt as candles, wood can be used as fillers for plywood, boxes, baskets, pulp, paper, and substitute for Balsa wood but not favored as it waterlogs quickly.

**Nonak leaves*.**

**Nonak fruit*.**

**Nonak seed*.**
Photo credits
a. Lauren Gutierrez
b. Christine B. Laurent

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References
http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Hernandia+sonora

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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