

# Plant Profile

**Name:** South Sea Salad Tree



## Notes:

Edible leaves can be harvested year-round. A great substitute for spinach, or tossed with other salad greens. Blossoms are also edible.

Attractive to pollinators. Gorgeous edible landscape plant.

Also known as: lagikway, likway, gikway, brakue, or nating saluyot in the Philippines.

Known as tororo aoi in Japan and used to make neri.

In Korean, known as hwang chok kyu.

**When to Plant:** Spring, or when soil is warm.

**Common Name:** Chief Kubo's South Sea Salad Tree  
**Alternate Names:** Aibika, sunset muskmallow, sunset hibiscus, edible hibiscus. Formerly known as a hibiscus, now classified in the genus abelmoschus.  
**Botanical Name:** *Abelmoschus manihot*

**Physical Description:** Grows in a busy clump of palm-shaped dissected leaves, on average 4" across with 5-7 lobes. **Height:** averages up to 3' - 8' tall. Branches out 2'-4' wide. **Blooms:** late summer to early fall, large pale-yellow flowers, red centers.

Annual  Biennial  Perennial  
**Propagation:**  Seed  Cutting  Graft  
**Other:** Propagate early summer from cuttings

- **Soil:** fertile, moist, well-draining,
- **Water:** keep moist, but not wet.
- **Sun:** Full sun to partial shade
- **Zone/Temp:** Zone 9-11, frost sensitive
- **Spacing:** 3'-5'

**Germination:** Easily germinates in warm, moist soil.  
**Growing Season:** year-round  
**Days to Harvest:** year-round for leaves, late summer – fall for blossoms  
**Care: trim, Prune, other:** Prune to keep desirable shape.

**Nutrients/Fertilizer:** Not necessary in rich, humus soil. Lightly fertilize if needed with a general garden fertilizer.

**Pests & Diseases:** Not prone to pests or diseases if grown in tropical/sub-tropical region. May be bothered by aphids, slugs, white flies or powdery mildew.

**Companion Plants:** Other sun-loving plants such as basil, mints and peppers.