

## KATURAY



Scientific Name: *Sesbania grandiflora* (L.) Poir  
Common Names: Agati sesbania, West Indian pea, Sesban  
Local Names: Katuray (Tagalog, Ibanag, Pangasinense)  
Diana (Bisaya), Katuday (Ilocano, Ibanag)  
Gauai-gauai (Camarines, Capiz, Negros)  
Kature (Pampango), Kambangturi (Sulu)

## BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Katuray is a small tree growing to 12m with a cylindrical trunk diameter of about 30 cm. The ovate leaves are alternate, evenly pinnate, and 20-30 cm long. Leaflets are in 20-40 pairs, oblong, pale green 2.5-3.5 cm long. The inflorescence is short and the flowers are purple, cream or white. The pods swing freely, are slightly curved, and contain 10-25 seeds. The seeds are bean-shaped and about 2 mm x 3 mm. The trunk is soft and white

## ADAPTABILITY AND AVAILABILITY

It is common throughout the lower elevations of the Philippines.

## USES/IMPORTANCE

The green pods are eaten by humans and livestock. The young leaves are 36% crude protein, also eaten by man and livestock, and reportedly increase the milk production of cattle. The leaves are made into leaf meal for feeds.

Fresh flowers are used in cooking stews and in salads.

The bark contains a tanning agent, fiber and an extract used medicinally. Gum from the bark has water-proofing capabilities and can prolong the life of fishing tackle. Fishing lines are usually rubbed with the bark.

Katuray has been used very effectively in Taiwan and Indonesia for reforestation of eroded slopes and rehabilitation of depleted agricultural lands. It is used as support for pepper vines and betel as windbreaks, light shade and live fencing; and for beautification.

## **NUTRIENT VALUE**

One hundred grams of edible katuray contain water (91.02-94.49 g), ash (0.29-0.53 g), Ca (0.05 g), carbohydrates (0.36 g), fiber (6.87 g), Fe (0.18 g), P (0.29-0.53 g), and fat (1.22 g).

## **PROPAGATION**

Katuray is propagated by cuttings, seedlings, direct seeding, and aerial sowing.

## **CULTURAL PRACTICES**

The land has to be cultivated before planting. Holes are dug at 5 m x 5 m distance. For seedlings, the holes must be at least 45 cm deep and 30 cm in diameter. For cuttings, the holes are deeper. Irrigation water is necessary for newly planted seedlings not for established trees. Mulching can serve as compost and reduce water loss.

## **PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT**

Young plants are very susceptible to nematodes. Seeds (on the trees or in storage) are readily infested by weevils.

## **HARVESTING**

Harvesting is usually done manually or with the use of a special tool to hook the flowers when the trees are tall. Individual flowers, flower buds, young pods, or the whole bunch of inflorescence may be picked at one time.

Pods should be harvested immediately when mature.

## **FOOD PREPARATION**

Katuray can be cooked with other vegetables or just steamed.