



Cerbera odollam

Family: Apocynaceae

**Sea Mango,
Pong Pong Tree
Chiute, Chatthankai,
Grey Milkwood**

Origin: Endemic to the Mariana Islands. This is a small to medium-sized tree with dark foliage and showy, white flowers which are very fragrant. The whorled leaves are crowded near the ends of rather thick branches with conspicuous leaf scars below. The flower petals overlap to the left and are hairy and pinkish in the center. The fruits are often twinned, ellipsoid and speckled green. The seed coat is thin and after falling, soon decays, exposing fibrous tissue. Seeds are extremely poisonous. This plant is similar to Plumeria, but the leaves are smaller and slightly rolled with a reddish midrib. Pong Pong is one of popular ornamental plants which has unique characteristic. Its seed looks like a ball which has beautiful skin. It can be grown in a small pot to show on office desk or everywhere you want for decoration. Moreover when it grows enough, it also has beautiful shape, with white flowers and many young green seeds.



Growing from seed

Place the seed horizontally on top of the soil and dig it in 1/3 size. It should sprout within 2-3 weeks. You may grow this plant like a "Lucky Bean" and place the pot on your desktop or a window sill. In the ground it will grow in a small-size (8-10 ft) bushy tree.

