

Spondias lakonensis Pierre

Ma Ho

Synonym: *Allospondias lakonensis* (Pierre) Stapf

(ANACARDIACEAE)

It is an evergreen, pioneer tree growing up to 20 meters tall, with an open umbrella-shaped crown and spreading branches.

Where does it grow?

It is native to south-central and southeastern China, Hainan, Laos, Peninsular Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

What are its distinguishing characteristics?

Bark: dark grey and shallowly cracked, while the inner bark is orange-brown or pinkish with clear sap. **Leaf:** 30-40 cm, odd-pinnate, clustered near end of twigs, 9-12 pairs of opposite or alternate leaflets, 3-11 x 1.5-5 cm, bottom ones smaller, oblong with tapering tips & strongly asymmetric base, no teeth. Young shoots are densely hairy, mature leaves are slightly hairy on the veins below. 8-13 pairs of steeply curved side veins joined but without a marginal vein. Side leaflet stalks are very short, <0.3 cm, and end one 1-1.7 cm. **Flower:** 0.8 cm, white, branched clusters in leaf axils, 2-14 cm, individual stalks slender, jointed, with minute pale orange hairs. Calyx <2 mm, 5 triangular lobes, hairy, not overlapping in bud. 5 narrow petals with pointed, recurved tips, not overlapping in bud, 8-10 stamens, slightly shorter than petals, anthers blunt, oblong, 1 mm. 4(5) styles, free at base but fused at top, ovaries hairy, surrounded by bright red ring-like disc, thin with wavy edge. **Fruit:** +1.2 cm, pinkish-orange, ovoid, fleshy with hard, star-shaped stone containing up to 4 oblong seeds.

Why is it a framework species?

Its fleshy fruits attract birds, bats, and small mammals.

How are saplings grown?

Collect ripe fruits in August, September, October and December. Remove the seeds from the fruits and sow them in germination trays. No special pre-sowing treatment is required. GP is 42%, and MLD is 53 days.

How should saplings be planted and cared for?

Apply a cardboard mulch mat at planting time. Weed and apply fertilizer as necessary. Make sure planted saplings do not become shaded by neighboring trees.

What can the species be used for?

It is commonly valued for its edible fruits and nuts, which are used in local diets and traditional practices.

