

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN
Pine Rockland Propagation Factsheet:
Locustberry (*Byrsonima lucida*)

Note: This information is intended for collecting material from your yard. It is illegal to collect plants from a natural area without landowner permission



SEED COLLECTION/PROCESSING

- Fruits are drupes, and tan/brown when ripe.
- Fruits are available intermittently, peaking in spring.
- Collect ripe brown fruits from the plant or from the ground beneath.
- Clean pulp off fruits (this is easiest if they are fresh). We recommend you squeeze each fruit to pop the seed out of the skin and discard the skin. Place the fleshy seeds in a sieve in a sink, then repeatedly stir and rinse away excess juice and pulp. Seeds will not be perfectly clean, but will look fuzzy.
- Spread out the seeds onto newspaper in a room with a good air conditioner and wait at least 24 hours. The fuzz will disappear as the seeds dry.
- If you do not sow seeds immediately, store them in a dry paper envelope in an air conditioned room for several days.



PROPAGATION FROM SEED

- For best results, scarify each seed by cutting into the surface with a razor blade or rubbing it on sand paper or a rasp. If you do not do this step, you will still get germination, but it will be lower and delayed.
- Put seeds in a cup full of very warm water and let them sit overnight.
- The next day, sow the seeds onto the surface of a pot of high-quality, well-drained potting soil or germination mix. Press the seeds gently into the soil surface but do not bury them.
- Place the pot on a mist bench. If not available, place the pot in bright indirect light, and do not allow the soil to dry out (daily watering may be needed).
- Germination can take a very long time: 2 weeks – 3 months.
- Note: germination will be low. Expect <20% success.



VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION

- Select a healthy, large plant with woody growth
- Using scissors or pruners, cut off 4-6" inches of woody branches with new growth at the ends, making sure to keep woody growth at the bottom. If not planting immediately, wrap cut ends in damp paper towel and place in a Ziploc bag until planting.
- Each cutting should have at least 3 nodes. Cut the leaves off the lowermost node(s), and cut away excess stem beneath the bottom node.
- Trim some leaves on top to reduce water loss.
- Dip 1-3 lowermost nodes into rooting hormone, and plant the cutting into a pot containing 100% perlite.
- Keep the pot on intermittent mist until rooting occurs. Expect approximately 10% success.