



TREE SPECIES (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Margaritaria nobilis

PERU COMMON NAME

Loro micuna, Palo merongue

TREE FAMILY

PHYLLANTHACEAE

AVERAGE LEAF SIZE (CM)

10.5cm × **3.75cm**
Length Width

DISTRIBUTION

**NATIVE TO PERU**

ELEVATIONAL RANGE (M)

1200–1300m

TREE HEIGHT

SMALL (10–20M)

COFFEE AGROFORESTRY INFORMATION

COFFEE SYSTEM

**ARABICA**

COFFEE IMPACT

**BENEFICIAL TO COFFEE**

CULTIVATION

**PLANTED****NATURAL**

PREVALENCE

Not Common in Coffee Agroforestry

TREE MANAGEMENT

Planted by seeds. Plant fresh seeds in a partially shaded nursery. Usually, a high germination rate can be expected, and the seeds sprout within a few weeks. When the seedlings are between 4 and 5 cm high, plant them in individual containers. They will be ready to plant outside about 4 to 5 months later. The production of fruits (4-10 seeds each) is abundant and they are collected from the tree with a stick. They are left to open in the sun or can be opened manually. The seeds (approx. 17,800 per kg) are inside bluish cavities that must be broken manually to extract them. The seeds have a prolonged dormancy period. The collection of seedlings of natural regeneration and growing them in the nursery could be an alternative for their reproduction. Growth in nursery is very fast and seedlings can reach 25-30 cm in height in a time of 2-3 months. Requires full sun during initial development and has a low incidence of pests.

TREE BENEFITS AND USES

FARMER USES

**Firewood, Lumber, Ornamental, Product**

Used to make boxes, fence posts, and toys.

FARM SERVICES

**Coffee Shade, Soil Improvement, Reforestation**

Coffee Shade: provides medium to dense shade

Soil Improvement: loses leaves completely in the dry season, which helps the recycling of nutrients

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

✓ YES

Its seeds are preferred by parrots, tanagers, euphonias, and saltators. The cracked bark of the trunk houses many insects that are sought after by woodcreepers and others such as vireos, greenlets, cuckoos, tyrants, and warblers.

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Tropical Plants Database, Ken Fern. tropical.theferns.info. 2022-06-22. tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Margaritaria+nobilis;WFO (2022): Margaritaria nobilis L.f. Accessed on: 24 Jun 2022. Published on the Internet <http://www.worldfloraonline.org/taxon/wfo-0000236325>;Plants of the World Online POWO (2022). "Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet <http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org>;

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