

Pā'ū o Hi'iaka

(*Jacquemontia sandwicensis*)

Looks stunning spilling over rock walls, in hanging baskets or as a groundcover.

GROW

- **Size:** 0.3 - 0.75 ft tall, 10 ft wide
- **Light:** Full sun
- **Soil:** Well-drained soil
- **Water:** Drought tolerant and accustomed to dry soils
- **Maintenance:** Trim growing tips to encourage denser branching. Will need more regular pruning if trying to confine to a small area.
- **Pests:** Plants are prone to ants and mealy bugs. Slugs can at times be problematic for this vine.

PROPAGATE

Pā'ū o Hi'iaka is best propagated by cuttings (NOT seeds).

Can be planted directly in ground, with regular watering.

- **Cut:** Take a 6–8 inch green stem cutting with at least 3–4 nodes
- **Prep:** Remove lower leaves; optional to dip in rooting hormone
- **Plant:** Place into moist potting mix or soil—2 nodes buried, 1–2 above soil
- **Water:** Keep consistently moist in shaded area until roots form (2–4 weeks)
- **Transplant:** Once rooted and new leaves emerge, plant in permanent location

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

- Attracts the endangered and native yellow-faced bee
- Restores native coastal plant communities, increasing plant diversity and resilience

ETHNOBOTANICAL USES

Leaves of Pā'ū o Hi'iaka were commonly used as a cathartic as well as to treat babies with thrush. The vine like runners were braided and used as a make shift lashing when other fibers were not available.

A mo'olelo on this plant suggests how quickly it can fill in as a substitute for turf grass. According to the story, Pele was out on the water and left her baby sister Hi'iaka on the beach. She was gone longer than expected and Hi'iaka fell asleep. A vine grew up and covered her like a skirt to protect her from the sun, hence the name "Pā'ūohi'iaka".



Scan here to learn more!