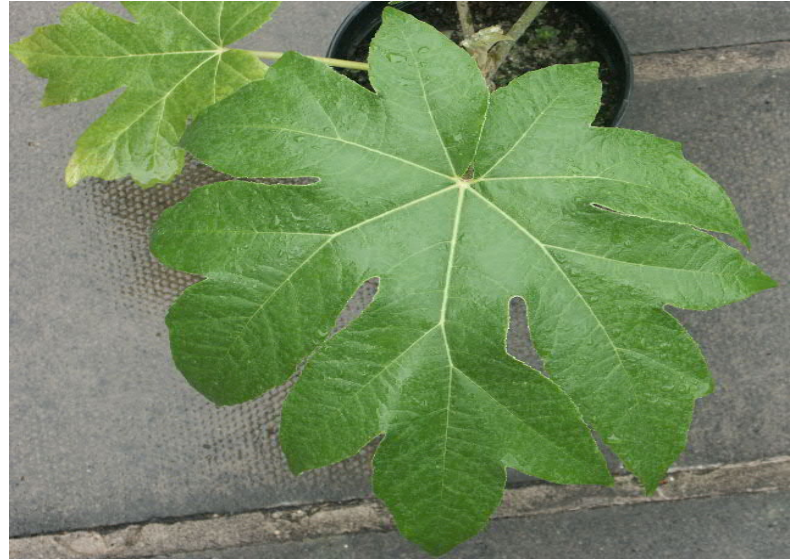




Monji Plant Profile

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Rice Paper Plant *Tetrapanax papyriferus* 03-92



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 15-24, H1, H2	Afternoon shade in the hottest climates	Plant will spread underground in good soil	Regular watering	Big, branched clusters of creamy white flowers on furry tan stems appear in winter	10-15 feet tall

Rice paper plant is a thicket-forming evergreen shrub or small tree with huge long-petiole leaves that are 10-15 in (15.4-38 cm) across. The palmate lobed leaves (5-11 toothed lobes) are densely white-pubescent and feltlike beneath. An individual shrub can reach 15 ft (4.6 m) tall with a similar spread. It may, however, be part of a thicket covering a much larger area.

The flowers are white woolly balls arranged in large conspicuous panicles up to 3 ft (0.9 m) long that extend up and outward beyond the foliage. The flowers appear in autumn and are followed by clusters of spherical black berries, each about 1/8 in (0.3 cm) in diameter. The cultivar, 'Variegata', has dark green leaves variegated with cream or white.

Rice paper plant, *Tetrapanax papyriferus*, is native to southern China and Taiwan. It has escaped cultivation and become established in disturbed areas in peninsular Florida.

Rice paper plant is grown for its attractive large, fan-shaped leaves. Use it in a sheltered location because it is susceptible to damage from wind. Rice paper plant is a good choice against a wall. Mix it with other large-leaved plants for a tropical look. In mild winter areas the rugged rice paper plant is a good choice for outdoor containers in frostfree areas and indoors where its dramatic foliage adds interest to any interior.

**** Fuzz on new growth can irritate the eyes and skin**