

# Salak

For other uses, see [Salak \(disambiguation\)](#).

*“Snake fruit” redirects here. It can also refer to the **kakasillo** (*Manilkara zapota*).*

**Salak** (*Salacca zalacca*) is a species of palm tree (family *Areaceae*) native to Java and Sumatra in Indonesia. It is cultivated in other regions as a food crop, and reportedly naturalized in Bali, Lombok, Timor, Malaysia, Maluku and Sulawesi.<sup>[1][2]</sup>



*Salak exported from Indonesia*

It is a very short-stemmed palm, with leaves up to 6 metres (20 ft) long; each leaf has a 2-metre long petiole with spines up to 15 centimetres (5.9 in) long, and numerous leaflets. The fruits grow in clusters at the base of the palm, and are also known as **snake fruit** due to the reddish-brown scaly skin. They are about the size and shape of a ripe fig, with a distinct tip. The pulp is edible. The fruit can be peeled by pinching the tip, which should cause the skin to slough off so it can be pulled away. The fruit inside consists of three lobes with the two larger ones, or even all three, containing a large inedible seed. The lobes resemble, and have the consistency of, large peeled garlic cloves. The taste is usually sweet and acidic, with a strong astringent edge, but its apple-like texture can vary from very dry and crumbly (*salak pondoh* from Yogyakarta) to moist and crunchy (*salak Bali*).<sup>[3]</sup>

## 1 Cultivation

The salak tree has been cultivated throughout Indonesia, and there are at least 30 cultivars, most of which have an astringent taste and are sweet. Two popular cultivars are *salak pondoh* from Yogyakarta province (found in 1980s) and *salak Bali* from Bali island.



*Salak agroforest, Bogor, West Java*



*Young fruit*

### 1.1 Salak pondoh

*Salak pondoh* is an important fruit in the Yogyakarta province on the island of Java. In the five years to 1999, the annual production in Yogyakarta doubled to 28,666 tons. Its popularity (compared with other cultivars) among local Indonesian consumers is mainly due to the intensity of its aroma and its sweet flavor even before reaching full maturity.

*Salak pondoh* has three more superior variations, namely *pondoh super*, *pondoh hitam* (black pondoh), and *pondoh gading* (ivory / yellowish-skinned pondoh).

## 1.2 Salak Bali

Salak Bali is commonly sold all over the island of Bali, and is a popular fruit with both locals and tourists. The fruit is roughly the size of a large fig, and has a crunchy and moist consistency. The fruit has a starchy 'mouth feel', and a flavour reminiscent of dilute pineapple and lemon juice.

### 1.2.1 Salak gula pasir

The most expensive cultivar of the Bali salak is the *gula pasir* (literally “sand sugar” or “grain sugar”, referring to its fine-grainedness), which is smaller than the normal salak and is the sweetest of all salak. The price in Bali is Rp 15,000-30,000 (US\$1.50-3.00) per kilogram depending on time of year.

Salak gula pasir or also known as Sugar salak which known for its juicy sweetness sometimes fermented into Salak wine which has an alcohol content of 13.5 percent, similar to traditional wine made from grapes.

## 2 References

- [1] Kew World Checklist of Selected Plant Families
- [2] Govaerts, R. & Dransfield, J. (2005). World Checklist of Palms: 1-223. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- [3] Moge, Johannis P. 1982. *Salacca zalacca* var. *amboinensis*. *Principes* 26: 71.

## 3 Further reading

- Supriyadi; Suhardi; M. Suzuki; K. Yoshida; T. Muto; A. Fujita; and N. Watanabe (2002). “Changes in the Volatile Compounds and in the Chemical and Physical Properties of Snake Fruit (*Salacca edulis* Reinw) Cv. *Pondoh* during Maturation”. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **50** (26): 7627–7633. doi:10.1021/jf020620e. PMID 12475281.

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