



- **Local/Common Name:** None
- **Scientific Name:** *Rubus glaucus*
- **Family :** Rosaceae (Rose Family)
- **Origin and Status:**
  - Invasive weed in Hawai'i
  - Native to ?
  - First introduced to into Hawai'i in ?
- **Description:** *Rubus glaucus* is a raspberry plant with long thorny vines. Its leaves are compound, consisting of 3 oblong-shaped leaflets that have a pointy tip. The stems are white, almost as if coated with flour, and have sparse long thorns. The flowers are white, with 5 tiny petals, and tending to occur in clusters along the stems. Its fruits are red when ripe and are about 1" long.
- **Distribution:** *R. glaucus* is currently found in the Volcano area along disturbed roadsides and abandoned fields.
- **Other Information:** *R. glaucus* is a rambling vine. This means, like other vines, that it tends to grow up and over other plants. It ends up smothering whatever is growing beneath it. It can also grow out and along the ground instead of erect. Birds have been witnessed eating the berries from this plant.
- **Contact:**

*Rubus glaucus*

Prepared by MLC/KFB



- **Local/Common Name:** Hill or Mysore Raspberry
- **Scientific Name:** *Rubus niveus*
- **Family :** Rosaceae (Rose Family)
- **Origin and Status:**
  - ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
  - ≈ Native from India, southeastern Asia, the Philippines, and Indonesia
  - ≈ First introduced to into Hawai'i in 1965
- **Description:** *Rubus niveus* is a stout shrub that grows up to 6 ½ ft. tall. The compound leaves have 5 to 9 leaflets that are oval-shaped with pointed tips and thorns located on the underside. The stems are whitish in color, hairless, and covered with hooked thorns. Flowers form in clusters called panicles at the tips of the stems. Each flower has 5 pinkish-purple petals and is approximately ½" wide. Red fruits (about ½" wide) are found in clusters.
- **Distribution:** *R. niveus* tends to grow in disturbed sites like cleared fields and roadsides, but may have the potential to grow in forests. It is currently established on the east side of Hawai'i; confirmed in Volcano and Kulani. Also found in Kula, Maui.
- **Other Information:**
- **Contact:**

**Mysore Raspberry**  
*Rubus niveus*

Prepared by KFB



- **Local/Common Name:** Thimbleberry and Mauritius Raspberry
- **Scientific Name:** *Rubus rosifolius*
- **Family :** Rosaceae (Rose Family)
- **Origin and Status:**
  - ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
  - ≈ Native to Asia
  - ≈ First introduced to into Hawai'i in 1880's
- **Description:**
- **Distribution:**
- **Other Information:**
- **Contact:**

**Thimbleberry**  
*Rubus rosifolius*

Prepared by KFB



**Koster's Curse**  
*Clidemia hirta*

Prepared by KFB/MLC

**Local/Common Name:** Koster's Curse  
**Scientific Name:** *Clidemia hirta*  
**Family :** Melastomataceae (Melastoma Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ✍ Native to Neotropics  
    ✍ First collected in Hawai'i (Oahu) in 1949

**Description:** *Clidemia hirta* is a shrub growing up to 12 feet tall. Its thick leaves are oblong-shaped (2-6" long, 1-4" wide) with pointed tips and 5 deep main veins. The lower leaf surface, as well as the reddish stems, are covered with stiff hairs. It bears small white flowers, only about 1/2" wide, with 5 petals each. The fruits are oblong-shaped, small (upto 1/2" long), and purple to black in color.

**Distribution:** Koster's Curse can be found along roadsides, in pastures, and in mesic forest. It has been identified in areas including; Volcano, Mountain View, South Kona, North Kohala, and Hilo.

**Other Information:** *C. hirta* is considered extremely invasive. Like many other exotic plants, it tends to grow up and over native plants, thus smothering them. It also tends to grow in very dense patches which block out light from the ground, thus preventing native seeds from sprouting. Agriculturally, *C. hirta* is a problem because it can easily get established in pasture lands.

**Contact:**



**Glory Bush**  
*Tibouchina herbacea*

Prepared by KFB

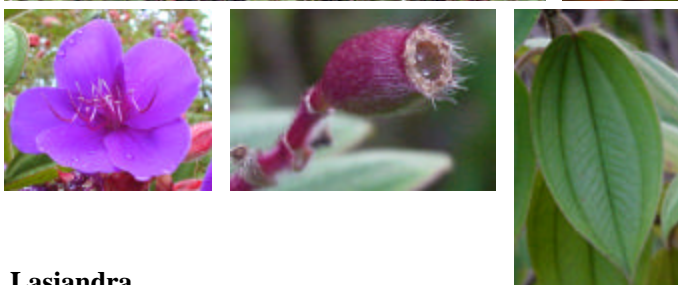
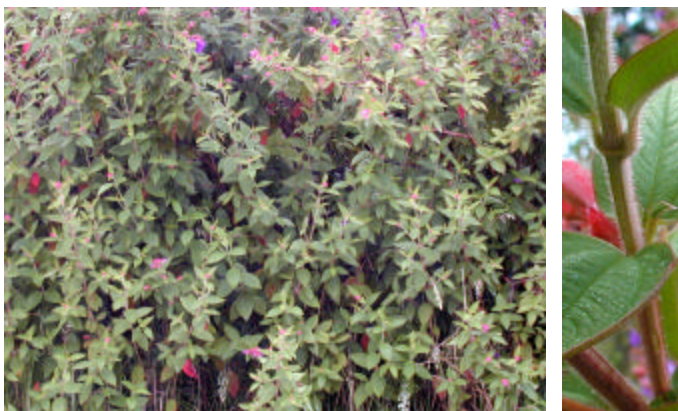
**Local/Common Name:** None  
**Scientific Name:** *Tibouchina herbacea*  
**Family :** Melastomataceae (Melastoma Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ✍ Native to Southern Brazil  
    ✍ First collected in Hawai'i in 1977

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



**Lasiandra**  
*Tibouchina urvilleana*

Prepared by KFB

**Local/Common Name:** Glory Bush, Lasiandra and Princess Flower  
**Scientific Name:** *Tibouchina urvilleana*  
**Family :** Melastomataceae (Melastoma Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ✍ Native to Southern Brazil  
    ✍ First introduced to into Hawai'i around 1910

**Description:** *Tibouchina urvilleana* is a tall shrub or tree that grows to 15' tall. Its light green leaves have 5-7 distinct veins, with soft long hairs located on each side. Leaf shape is oblong to lance shaped, with a pointed tip. The hair-covered stems have a squarish cross-section. Flowers are 5-petaled, deep purple, can grow to 3" wide, and are found at the ends of the branches. Its fruits are purple to black in color, covered with hairs, and are about 3/4" long.

**Distribution:** *T. urvilleana* has been located in Glenwood, Volcano, Mountain View, Kaloko Mauka, and Kohala. It is also found on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui.

**Other Information:** *T. urvilleana* can grow in very dense stands, so thick that a person can barely walk between the branches. It grows easily from cuttings; people have been known to take cuttings from Volcano and plant them around the island. It was originally brought to Hawai'i as an ornamental plant.

**Contact:**



*Tetrazygia bicolor*

Prepared by KFB

**Local/Common Name:** None  
**Scientific Name:** *Tetrazygia bicolor*  
**Family :** Melastomataceae (Melastoma Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ⌘ Native to Cuba  
    ⌘ First collected in Hawai'i in 1958  
**Description:**  
**Distribution:**  
**Other Information:**  
**Contact:**



**Palmgrass**  
*Setaria palmifolia*

Prepared by KFB/MLC

**Local/Common Name:** Palmgrass, Itchy Grass  
**Scientific Name:** *Setaria palmifolia*  
**Family :** Poaceae (Grass Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ⌘ Native to Tropical Asia  
    ⌘ First collected in Hawai'i in 1903  
**Description:** *Setaria palmifolia* is an ornamental grass that grows in tall tufts reaching 6' tall. Nearly all of the plant is covered with hairs so stiff that they can puncture skin. The leaves have distinct veins arranged in parallel fashion; the upper portion of the leaf is rough to the touch. Greenish inflorescences upto 1' long occur at the ends of long stems. Its seeds are tiny, less than 1/8 of an inch long!  
**Distribution:** Palmgrass can be found at elevations of 500-5,000 feet, most noticeably in the Waiakea and Ola'a areas. It grows along roadsides, as well as in disturbed forest and agricultural land.  
**Other Information:** A local name for this grass is "itchy grass". The reason for calling it by that name is because of its stiff hairs. When you touch this plant, the stiff bristles get stuck in your skin and can make you itchy! It is believed to be spread by birds.  
**Contact:**



**Lantana**  
*Lantana camara*

Prepared by KFB

**Local/Common Name:** Lantana  
**Scientific Name:** *Lantana camara*  
**Family :** Verbenaceae (Verbena Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ⌘ Native to West Indies  
    ⌘ First introduced to into Hawai'i in 1858  
**Description:**  
**Distribution:**  
**Other Information:**  
**Contact:**



**Common Guava**  
*Psidium guajava*

Prepared by KFB

**Local/Common Name:** Common Guava  
**Scientific Name:** *Psidium guajava*  
**Family :** Myrtaceae (Myrtle Family)

**Origin and Status:**  
    ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ✍ Native to the Neotropics  
    ✍ First introduced to into Hawai'i in the early 1800's

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



**Christmas Berry**  
*Schinus terebinthifolius*

Prepared by KFB

**Local/Common Name:** Christmas Berry and Brazilian Pepper  
**Scientific Name:** *Schinus terebinthifolius*  
**Family :** Anacardiaceae (Mango Family)

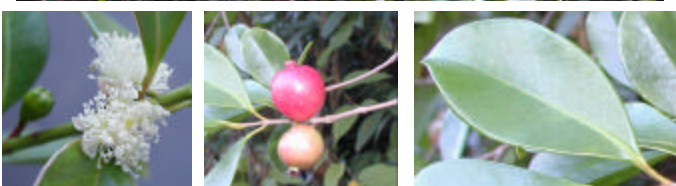
**Origin and Status:**  
    ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ✍ Native to Brazil  
    ✍ First collected in Hawai'i in 1911

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



**Strawberry Guava**  
*Psidium cattleianum*

Prepared by KFB

**Local/Common Name:** Strawberry Guava  
**Scientific Name:** *Psidium cattleianum*  
**Family :** Myrtaceae (Myrtle Family)

**Origin and Status:**  
    ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ✍ Native to the Neotropics  
    ✍ First introduced to into Hawai'i in 1825

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



**Local/Common Name:** Japanese Honeysuckle

**Scientific Name:** *Lonicera japonica*

**Family :** Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ⌘ Native to Asia
- ⌘ First collected in Hawai'i in 1951

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



**Japanese Honeysuckle**  
*Lonicera japonica*

Prepared by KFB



**Local/Common Name:** Dog Tail

**Scientific Name:** *Buddleia asiatica*

**Family :** Buddleiaceae (Butterfly Bush Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ⌘ Native to Asia
- ⌘ First collected in Hawai'i in 1908

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



**Dog Tail**  
*Buddleia asiatica*

Prepared by KFB



**Local/Common Name:**

**Scientific Name:** *Cotoneaster pannosa*

**Family :** Rosaceae (Rose Family)

**Origin and Status:**

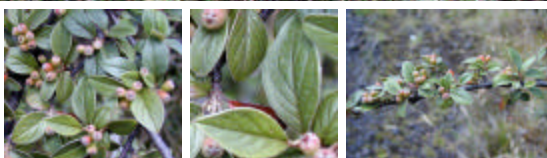
- ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ⌘ Native to
- ⌘ First introduced to into Hawai'i in

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**

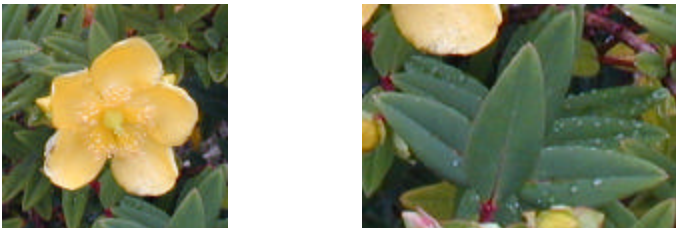


**Cotoneaster pannosa**

Prepared by KFB



**Local/Common Name:** St. John's Wort  
**Scientific Name:** *Hypericum kourouense*  
**Family :** Clusiaceae (Mangosteen Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ⌘ Native to  
    ⌘ First introduced to into Hawai'i in  
**Description:**  
**Distribution:**  
**Other Information:**  
**Contact:**



**St. John's Wort**  
*Hypericum kourouense*

Prepared by KFB



**Local/Common Name:** Japanese Anemone  
**Scientific Name:** *Anemone hupehensis*  
**Family :** Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ⌘ Native to China  
    ⌘ First collected in Hawai'i in 1942  
**Description:**  
**Distribution:**  
**Other Information:**  
**Contact:**



**Japanese Anemone**  
*Anemone hupehensis*

Prepared by KFB



**Local/Common Name:** Soubush  
**Scientific Name:** *Pluchea symphytifolia*  
**Family :** Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ⌘ Native to Mexico  
    ⌘ First collected in Hawai'i (Oahu) in 1931  
**Description:**  
**Distribution:**  
**Other Information:**  
**Contact:**



**Soubush**  
*Pluchea symphytifolia*

Prepared by KFB



**Japanese Mat Rush**  
*Juncus effusus*

Prepared by KFB

**Local/Common Name:** Japanese Mat Rush

**Scientific Name:** *Juncus effusus*

**Family :** Juncaceae (Rush Family)

**Origin and Status:**

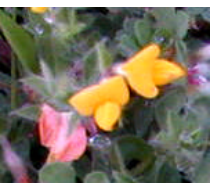
- ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ⌘ Native to Temperate Regions of both Hemispheres
- ⌘ First introduced to into Hawai'i in 1900

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



**Lotus subbiflorus**

Prepared by KFB

**Local/Common Name:** None

**Scientific Name:** *Lotus subbiflorus*

**Family :** Fabaceae (Pea Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ⌘ Native to Southern and Southwestern Europe
- ⌘ First collected in Hawai'i in 1936

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



**Local/Common Name:**

**Scientific Name:**

**Family :** ( Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ⌘ Native to
- ⌘ First introduced to into Hawai'i in

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



**Banana poka**  
*Passiflora mollissima*

Prepared by MLC

**Local/Common Name:** Banana Poka  
**Scientific Name:** *Passiflora mollissima*  
**Family:** Passifloraceae (Passion Flower family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ✍ Native to South America (Andes)
- ✍ First introduced to Hawai'i in the early 1900's
- ✍ Listed as a noxious weed by the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture

**Description:** *Passiflora mollissima* is a vine that grows over the tops of trees, fences, shrubs, etc. Its leaves (3–8" wide) have 3 lobes with soft hair on the underside. The flowers (approx. 3" wide) are pink and hang from the vine. Its fruits, which resemble individual yellow bananas when ripe, are about 3" long and also hang from the vine.

**Distribution:** Currently on the islands of Hawai'i, Maui and Kaua'i in mesic and wet forests, and roadside from 890-6680 ft.

**Other Information:** Banana poka will grow over almost anything; including other plants, fences, utility poles and even houses. It smothers, kills, and prevents any plants growing underneath it. This makes it a very serious threat to native forest ecosystems.

**Contact:**



**Himalayan Raspberry**  
*Rubus ellipticus*

Prepared by MLC

**Local/Common Name:** Yellow Himalayan Raspberry or Golden Evergreen Raspberry

**Scientific Name:** *Rubus ellipticus*  
**Family:** Rosaceae (Rose Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ✍ Native to Southern Asia near the Himalayas at elevations ranging from 1,950-7,500 ft.
- ✍ First introduced to Hawai'i in 1961 for its fruit.
- ✍ Listed as a noxious species by the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture

**Description:** *Rubus ellipticus* is a weakly-climbing, stout shrub that forms impenetrable thickets from 9–15 feet tall. The stems are covered with red hairs and "rose like" thorns. The compound leaves have 3 leaflets that are rounded to "heart"-shaped with thorns located on the underside. The flowers form clusters at the tips of the stems. Each flower has 5 white petals and is approximately 3/4" wide. Yellow fruits are found in clusters.

**Distribution:** Currently established only on the eastern side of the island of Hawai'i; seedlings have been found in hapu'u logs shipped to Maui. Ranges as far north as Hamakua and south to the Ka'u Forest Reserve; the largest population is in the Volcano area.

**Other Information:** *R. ellipticus* can invade and dominate disturbed sites like roadsides or fields, as well as native forests. It can form dense thickets which are extremely difficult for people and animals to walk through, and for plants to grow under. This is a serious threat to the survival and growth of native plants and animals.

**Contact:**



**Prickly Florida Blackberry**  
*Rubus argutus*

Prepared by MLC

**Local/Common Name:** Prickly Florida Blackberry

**Scientific Name:** *Rubus argutus*  
**Family:** Rosaceae (Rose Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ✍ Native to the central and eastern United States
- ✍ First collected in Hawai'i in 1904
- ✍ Listed as a noxious weed by the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture

**Description:** *Rubus argutus* is an upright, thorny shrub that grows mainly in open disturbed sites. Stems are red, covered with long thorns and average a height of 3–12 feet. There are 3-5 serrated leaflets per leaf which are oblong and pointed, having small prickles along the bottom vein. Each white flower (about 1" wide) has 5 petals, and grows out from the leaf-stem joint. It has edible black fruits that grow up to 1" long.

**Distribution:** Found growing in the wild on the island of Hawai'i from lower elevation mesic to wet forest and up to sub-alpine grassland; from 650-7,475 ft. elevation.

**Other Information:** *R. argutus* has the ability to invade native forest, shrubland, and grassland areas in addition to disturbed habitats. It can outgrow native plants and is a nuisance for man and animal to walk through because of its thorny canes.

**Contact:**





**Ivy Gourd**  
*Coccinia grandis*

Prepared by MLC

**Local/Common Name:** Ivy Gourd  
**Scientific Name:** *Coccinia grandis*  
**Family :** Cucurbitaceae (Gourd Family)

**Origin and Status:**

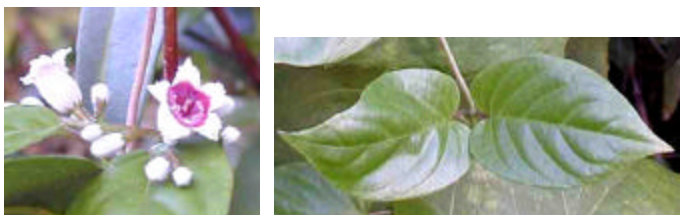
- ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ⌘ Native to Africa, Asia, and Australia
- ⌘ First collected in Hawai'i at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in 1986

**Description:** *Coccinia grandis* is a quick climbing herb that will grow over almost anything. The 3-lobed leaves are a medium green shade with short hair on the underside and are 2–4" wide. It has solitary white flowers (approx. 1½" wide) with 5 lobes. Fruits, which hang from the vine, are red when ripe and approximately 3" long.

**Distribution:** *C. grandis* is well-established along roadsides from Kailua-Kona to Honaunau on the Big Island; also found on Manoa Valley, Oahu, and is now on Maui and Kauai. It is thought to be a lower elevation plant, from sea level to 300 feet, but has been found at higher elevations.

**Other Information:** Ivy gourd will grow over anything that it can get its tendrils onto, including other plants, power lines, fences, and even houses. It will smother and kill almost everything living beneath it and will prevent nearly any other plants from growing underneath.

**Contact:**



**Maile pilau**  
*Paederia scandens*

Prepared by MLC

**Local/Common Name:** Maile pilau  
**Scientific Name:** *Paederia scandens*  
**Family :** Rubiaceae (Coffee Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ⌘ Native to eastern Asia
- ⌘ First recorded on O'ahu in 1854

**Description:** *Paederia scandens* is a fast-growing climbing vine. Its shiny leaves (1½-5½" long, ¾-2" wide) are born opposite of each other along the vine. Hair tufts can be found on the underside of the leaves, where the primary veins meet. The small flowers (approx. ½" wide) are 5-lobed and white with a purple-magenta center. They are found in clusters that arise from where the leaves meet the vine. Fruits are round and small, only about ¼" in diameter, and are a yellow-brown to reddish color when ripe. Young shoots have a pungent smell when broken.

**Distribution:** Maile pilau is well-established in Hilo and surrounding areas, also seen in Volcano and Hamakua on the Island of Hawai'i. It invades roadsides, coastal areas, disturbed mesic, dry and subalpine forests.

**Other Information:** Being a vine, *P. scandens* has the capability to grow over almost anything. In thick masses, the plant creates a "blanket" which not only smothers whatever it is growing overtop of, but also prevents other plants from growing up or establishing from underneath. It can also cause problems growing over fences and utility poles.

**Contact:**



**Faya Tree**  
*Myrica faya*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Faya Tree, Firetree  
**Scientific Name:** *Myrica faya*  
**Family :** Myricaceae (Bayberry Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ⌘ Native to the Canary Islands, Madeira, and the Azores
- ⌘ First collected on Hawai'i in 1926

**Description:** *Myrica faya* grows in the form of evergreen shrubs or trees that can reach 45 feet tall. The leaves are thick and hairless (glabrous), ranging in size from ½-1¼" wide and 2½-4 ½" long. Leaf color is usually a dark green with yellow-green colored dots. Flowers form in bunches towards the tips of the branches. Fruits are small (only ¼" round), and dark red to black when mature.

**Distribution:** Faya tree is found on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Hawai'i, L-na'i, and Maui from 475-6600 ft. in mesic to wet forest habitats. It is well-established in Volcano on the Island of Hawai'i, becoming the dominant vegetation in some areas.

**Other Information:** *M. faya* is considered a serious pest. Like many other alien species, it tends to grow fast and crowds out native plants. Its canopy can become so thick that nothing can grow underneath it. It is known to be spread by birds and feral pigs.

**Contact:**



### Trumpet Tree

*Cecropia obtusifolia*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Trumpet Tree, guarumo  
**Scientific Name:** *Cecropia obtusifolia*  
**Family :** Cecropiaceae (Cecropia Family)

**Origin and Status:**  
    ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ✍ Native to Southern Central America to South America  
    ✍ First collected on Hawai'i in 1926

**Description:** *Cecropia obtusifolia* is a tree that can stand up to 40 feet tall, usually with one central trunk. Its deeply lobed leaves grow to about 12" wide (30 cm). Their upper surface is a bit rough to the touch, with sparse long hairs. The underside of the leaf is pale green to white in color, with dense, short, soft hairs. Male and female flowers are borne on separate trees in clusters.

The small fruits, only, ¼" long, are oval or oblong shaped.

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



### Octopus Tree

*Schefflera actinophylla*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Octopus Tree  
**Scientific Name:** *Schefflera actinophylla*  
**Family :** Araliaceae (Ginseng Family)

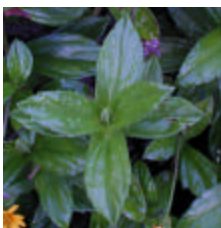
**Origin and Status:**  
    ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ✍ Native to Australia and New Guinea  
    ✍ First introduced to into Hawai'i around 1900

**Description:** *Schefflera actinophylla* is a tree

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

**Contact:**



### Wedelia *Wedelia trilobata*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Wedelia  
**Scientific Name:** *Wedelia trilobata*  
**Family :** Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

**Origin and Status:**  
    ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ✍ Native to  
    ✍ First introduced to into Hawai'i in

**Description:**

**Distribution:**

**Other Information:**

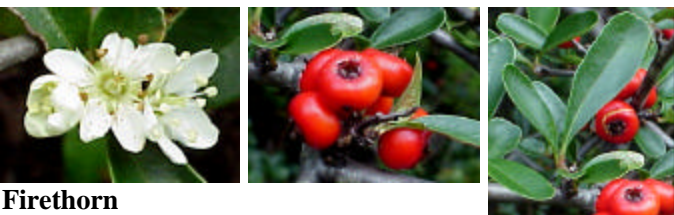
**Contact:**



**Passion Fruit**  
*Passiflora edulis*

Prepared by MLC

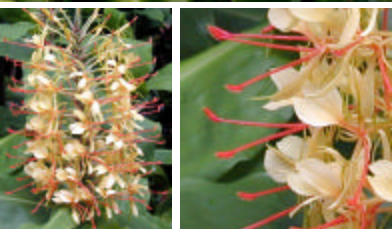
**Local Name:** Passion Fruit  
**Scientific Name:** *Passiflora edulis*  
**Family :** ( Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ⌘ Native to  
    ⌘ First introduced to into Hawai'i in  
**Description:**  
**Distribution:**  
**Other Information:**  
**Contact:**



**Firethorn**  
*Pyracantha angustifolia*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Firethorn  
**Scientific Name:** *Pyracantha angustifolia*  
**Family :** Rosaceae (Rose Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ⌘ Native to southwestern China  
    ⌘ First naturalized collection taken from Kauai'i in 1986  
**Description:** *Pyracantha angustifolia* is a thick shrub that can grow up to 13 feet tall. It has small (¾-2" long, ½" wide), dark green oblong-shaped leaves with rounded tips. The leaf undersides may be a green-gray color because of dense short hairs. Its stems are woody and sparsely covered with long hard thorns. Small white flowers (up to ¾" wide) have from 4 to 10 petals and are arranged in clumps along the stems. The fruits are red to orange in color and are less than ½" wide.  
**Distribution:** *P. angustifolia* has been found from Mountain View through the Volcano Golf Course in mesic forest, along disturbed roadsides and abandoned agricultural lands. It is also established on Kaua'i. It is probably spread by birds and rats.  
**Other Information:** The firethorn bush is used as an ornamental in many places in the world, including Hawai'i. In Hawai'i, firethorn escapes cultivation and forms dense thickets. The thickets easily overgrow native plants, and prevent new plants from sprouting. Because of its thorns, it can be a hazard for humans and animals to walk through.  
**Contact:**



**Kahili Ginger**  
*Hedychium gardnerianum*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Kahili Ginger  
**Scientific Name:** *Hedychium gardnerianum*  
**Family :** Zingiberaceae (Ginger Family)  
**Origin and Status:**  
    ⌘ Invasive weed in Hawai'i  
    ⌘ Native to the Himalayas (India and China)  
    ⌘ First collected in Hawai'i in 1940  
**Description:**  
**Distribution:**  
**Other Information:**  
**Contact:**



**Smoke Bush**  
*Buddleia madagascariensis*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Smoke Bush  
**Scientific Name:** *Buddleia madagascariensis*  
**Family :** Buddleiaceae (Butterfly Bush Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ✍ Native to Madagascar
- ✍ First introduced to into Hawai'i in 1931, to Hawai'i island in 1975

**Description:** *Buddleia madagascariensis* is a shrub that looks viney. It is best identified by its "furry" leaves and stem. The leaves are a long oval shape (3-7" long, 1-2 1/2" wide) with pointed tips and are arranged opposite of each other along the stem. The color is dark green on the top, but the underside of the leaf is almost white. The stem is also a light green to whitish color. It has many flowers (only 1/2" wide) that are found at the ends of the branches and are arranged in long clusters called cymes. The small petals are orange and have a pungent smell. Fruits are white when young, but turn dark blue as they ripen.

**Distribution:** *B. madagascariensis* was first found on the island of Hawai'i at the Volcano Transfer Station in 1975 and has since been located in other areas of Volcano and Mountain View. It tends to grow well in disturbed sites near mesic forests at about 1200-4000ft elevation. The branches of this plant can grow high into the trees, thus entangling, smothering and shading out the plants beneath it.

**Other Information:** Grows easily from cuttings.

**Contact:**



**California Poppy**  
*Eschscholzia californica*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** California Poppy  
**Scientific Name:** *Eschscholzia californica*  
**Family :** Papaveraceae (Poppy Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ✍ Native to western North America (California to Baja Mexico)
- ✍ First collected in Hawai'i in 1969

**Description:** *Eschscholzia californica* is an herbaceous plant that grows in tufts. It has dark green to reddish leaves that are deeply lobed (1 1/2-6" long, lobes <1/4" wide). Flowers with 4 to 5 petals are borne on the end of the stems, and range from bright orange to a creamy yellow or vanilla-orange color. It's fruits, called capsules, look a bit like bean pods. They can grow to 4" long. The seeds are round, about the size of a pencil lead, and black.

**Distribution:** *E. californica* is currently found in high elevation areas. On Hawai'i a population exists near the Hale Pōhaku Visitor Center on the way towards the summit of Mauna Kea, at an elevation of 9000ft. Another population exists in Kaloko Mauka. It has also been found in Kula, Maui.

**Other Information:** California poppy is the State Flower of California. The seeds are small and light enough to be airborne, as well as carried by water. Given the chance, it could spread and cover large areas rapidly, thus competing with Hawai'i's native plants and invading into upper elevation ranchland.

**Contact:**



**Pamapas/Jubata Grass**  
*Cortaderia jubata*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Andean Pampas or Jubata Grass  
**Scientific Name:** *Cortaderia jubata*  
**Family :** Poaceae (Grass Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ✍ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ✍ Native to western South America
- ✍ First introduced to into Hawai'i as early as 1925
- ✍ Listed on the Dept. of Agriculture Hawai'i State Noxious Weed List

**Description:** *Cortaderia jubata* is a tall grass that forms large tussocks or clumps. The serrated leaves are narrow (only 1/2" wide) but can grow up to 7 feet tall. Short hairs are located on the underside of the leaf blade towards the base. It has plumose (fluffy) inflorescences at the end of tall stalks that are sometimes over 10 feet tall. When immature the inflorescences are purple to pink in color, but as they mature they turn whitish. Seeds are very small, can be transported by wind, and sprout easily.

**Distribution:** *C. jubata* has been tentatively identified in Waimea, Kailua-Kona, and Mountain View on the Big Island. In Maui, it has already become a large problem because of its ability to survive and reproduce in a wide range of habitats and moisture gradients. Other places reporting *C. jubata* as a problem are California, New Zealand and South Africa.

**Other Information:** Pampas grass seeds do not need to be fertilized in order to germinate. *C. jubata* is often confused with *C. selloana*. Of the easiest ways to tell them apart is by the height of the inflorescences. In *C. jubata*, the inflorescence stands 2 to 4 times taller than the tips of the leaves whereas *C. selloana* inflorescences stand at the same height as the leaves.

**Contact:**



*Bocconia frutescens*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Plume Poppy or Bocconia  
**Scientific Name:** *Bocconia frutescens*  
**Family :** Papaveraceae (Poppy Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ≈ Native to Central and S. America and the West Indies
- ≈ First collected in Hawai'i in 1920
- ≈ Listed on the Dept. of Agriculture Hawai'i Noxious Weed List

**Description:** *Bocconia frutescens* is a shrub or small tree with leaves that are 2 – 8" wide, 4 – 16" long and are clustered towards the tips of the branches. The leaf margins are shaped with large rounded serrations. The underside of the leaves are whitish in color, with hairs that run along the leaf veins. Its very tiny flowers are arranged in dense groups called panicles. The fruits are small, only ½" long, and black.

**Distribution:** *B. frutescens* Has been found in the Manuka, Wood Valley and Honomalino areas on the island of Hawai'i. It can grow in dry to mesic forest areas, as well as disturbed pastures and roadsides at an elevations of 1650 – 3000ft. It is also found on Maui.

**Other Information:** *B. frutescens* grows quickly and can disperse easily because of its small seeds. The main concern with this plant is that it can displace and prevent native plants growth by forming dense stands.

**Contact:** If you see this plant please call the **HOTLINE: 961-3299**.



**Chinese Privet**  
*Ligustrum sinense*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Chinese privet  
**Scientific Name:** *Ligustrum sinense*  
**Family :** Oleaceae (Olive Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ≈ Native to China
- ≈ First introduced to into Hawai'i in

**Description:** *Ligustrum sinense* is a shrub or small tree with simple dark green leaves that are 1" wide and 2" long. The stems and branches are downy, or covered with short hairs. Its small white flowers grow in clusters at the end of a stem. Fruits are oval-shaped and green when immature; turning black or bluish-purple as they ripen.

**Distribution:** Chinese privet has escaped ornamental cultivation and is currently known in Captain Cook, Volcano, Mountain View. It is invasive not only in the mesic forests on Hawai'i, but also in many of the mid-west to eastern states on the US mainland. Given enough time, it can dominate the shrub layer of forests and exclude native plants from the ecosystem.

**Other Information:** *L. sinense* can form patches so dense that barely anything can grow beneath or through it. The plant is listed on the Poisonous Plants of North Carolina because of the high toxicity of its fruits. If eaten the fruits may cause abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, weakness, and cold or clammy skin.

**Contact:**



**Downy or Rose Myrtle**  
*Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Downy or Rose Myrtle  
**Scientific Name:** *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*  
**Family :** Myrtaceae (Myrtle Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ≈ Native to India, Southeast Asia, and the Philippines
- ≈ First introduced to into Hawai'i before 1920 on Kaua'i

**Description:** *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* is a small tree that grows to 10 feet tall. Its light green leaves (2-3 ½" long, ½-1 ½" wide) are thick and covered with short, dense, soft hairs on the undersides. The pink flowers (approx. 1½" wide) have 5 petals. They are found in clusters, called cymes, that arise along the branches. Fruits are oval-shaped, up to ¾" long, and are a purple color when ripe.

**Distribution:** Rose Myrtle is known in Hilo and Upper Puna along disturbed roadsides, pastures and in the native forests from 300–2000 feet in elevation. In Florida, rose myrtle is known to withstand freezing and low salinity, so it has the capability of extending its current range. Rose myrtle is also found on all the other main islands.

**Other Information:** Rose Myrtle spreads by seed drop from the tree itself as well as from birds and mammals. It grows quickly and can overgrow and replace native shrub understory. This plant has already been named on the Invasive Non-indigenous Plants of Florida list.

**Contact:**



**German Ivy**  
*Senecio mikanioides*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** German, Italian or Cape Ivy  
**Scientific Name:** *Delairea odorata* (syn. *Senecio mikanioides*)  
**Family :** Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ≈ Native to South Africa
- ≈ First collected on Hawai'i in 1910

**Description:** *Delairea odorata* is a vine that grows over the tops of trees, fences, shrubs or as a crawler on the ground. The vine itself is hairless, green to reddish in color, and pliable above the ground. Its pointy lobed leaves are 2–3" wide and 1-4" long. The small flowers (approx. ¼" wide) are yellow and hang from the vine in a cluster called a cyme. Its tiny black seeds are only an eighth of an inch long.

**Distribution:** German Ivy is currently found in Waimea, Kona, and Mauna Kea on the island of Hawai'i. It has also been found in Maui. It is mainly found along roadsides and disturbed forest, but has also been found in native forest areas.

**Other Information:** Germany Ivy is very invasive. It can grow in dense mats over almost anything. This crowds out and strangles existing plants and also prevents native plants from growing beneath or around it. It has the ability to root from any leaf node, so even small pieces can root and grow. German Ivy can survive for long periods of time without water and sunlight as well. It is a serious threat to native forest ecosystems. Other areas like California, Washington and Oregon are experiencing problems with this plant as well.

**Contact:**



**Fireweed**  
*Senecio madagascariensis*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Fireweed  
**Scientific Name:** *Senecio madagascariensis*  
**Family :** Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

**Origin and Status:**

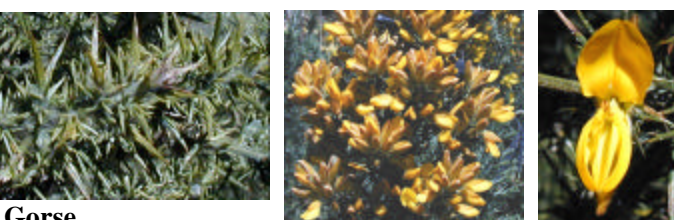
- ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ≈ Native to Madagascar and South Africa
- ≈ First noticed on Hawai'i within Parker Ranch in the 1980's

**Description:** *Senecio madagascariensis* is an herbaceous (non-woody) plant that grows to three feet tall. It has small green oblong-shaped leaves (< ½" wide, up to 1 ½" long). Its ¾" diameter flowers have many yellow petals that surround a central dark yellow disk, resembling a daisy. Tiny seeds, attached to light white hair-like structures, are easily dispersed through the air. One plant can produce up to 30,000 seeds per year!

**Distribution:** *S. madagascariensis* has been identified in Waimea, North Kohala, Ka'u, and Hilo in pastures and along roadsides. Maui and Kauai also report having fireweed infestations. It can tolerate a wide range of moisture gradients and light situations

**Other Information:** Fireweed invasion is a serious problem. Not only can it spread quickly and overtake large open areas, but it is highly toxic to livestock. In Hawai'i, farmers sacrifice their sheep and goats by having them clear fields infested with fireweed before they send in the cattle to graze. In Australia, fireweed causes \$2,000,000 in agricultural losses per year.

**Contact:**



**Gorse**  
*Ulex europaeus*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Gorse, furze, whin  
**Scientific Name:** *Ulex europaeus*  
**Family :** Fabaceae (Pea Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ≈ Native to western Europe
- ≈ First collected on Maui in 1910
- ≈ Listed by the HI Dept. of Agriculture as a Hawai'i Noxious Weed

**Description:** *Ulex europaeus* is a woody shrub that can grow in dense thickets up to 8 feet tall. Its dark green to grayish leaves (phyllodes) are hard and sharp, somewhat like thorns, and are about 1 ½" long. The yellow flowers may form singly or in clusters. Each flower is only about 1" long. Its oblong fruits (pods) are brown and up to 1" long. When mature, the pods crack open causing the seeds to pop out as far as 10 feet away from the parent plant.

**Distribution:** Gorse is found high on Mauna Kea and in Waimea on the Big Island, up to an elevation of about 6,000 feet. It has also been found on Maui.

**Other Information:** Young gorse (before it becomes woody) is well liked by cattle. Gorse grows so fast however, that cattle cannot keep up with it. By the time it becomes woody, the leaves are very hard and cattle cannot eat it. It has thus become very invasive in agricultural pastures. Dense thickets formed by gorse are impenetrable by humans and animals alike. Thickets tend to choke out anything living underneath or near it.

**Contact:**



**Miconia, Velvet Tree**  
*Miconia calvescens*

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** Miconia, Velvet Tree  
**Scientific Name:** *Miconia calvescens*  
**Family :** Melastomataceae (Melastome Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ≈ Native to Central and South America
- ≈ First introduced to into Hawai'i in the 1960's
- ≈ Listed by the HI Dept. of Agriculture as a Hawai'i Noxious Weed

**Description:** *Miconia calvescens* is a tree that can grow in dense stands up to 50 feet tall. It has large leaves (up to 3 feet long, 1 foot wide) that are dark green on the surface and purple underneath. Each leaf has three noticeable large veins which run from the base to the leaf tip. The tiny whitish-pink flowers grow in clusters of up to 3,000 at the end of stems along the main branches. Its small round fruits (1/4" diameter) are dark purple when mature. Each fruit can contain up to 200 seeds.

**Distribution:** *Miconia* is currently established on the island of Hawai'i in the Hilo, Hamakua, Puna, and South Kohala Districts; the largest populations occurring in Onomea and Leilani Estates. *Miconia* is also found on Maui, Oahu, and Kauai. On all islands, the elevation at which it grows appears to be related to rainfall. Areas receiving 75-80 inches or rain per year are the most at risk.

**Other Information:** A mature *miconia* tree can produce up to 3 million seeds per fruiting season (2 – 3 times per year). Seeds are spread by aerial drop from the tree, as well as by birds and humans, and can survive in the soil for at least 6 years. *Miconia* is a problem because it overgrows, shades out and steals nutrients from native plants. It also prevents native groundcover and shrubs from growing beneath thus causing erosion rates to increase. This plant has already destroyed about 70% of Tahiti's native forest which is similar to Hawai'i's rainforest. Over 25% of Tahiti's native species are threatened by *Miconia* invasion; it can happen here too.

**Contact:** If you see this plant, please contact the Big Island Miconia Hotline @ 961-3299.

**Common Name:** Victorian Box, Orange Pittosporum  
Victorian Laurel, Sweet Pittosporum

**Scientific Name:** *Pittosporum undulatum*

**Family :** Pittosporaceae (Pittosporum Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ≈ Native to Australia
- ≈ First introduced to into Hawai'i around 1875

**Description:** *Pittosporum undulatum* is a tree that grows 20-40 feet tall. This tree has a large wide dome shape filled with plenty of thick, green, hairless, and oval to elliptic-shaped leaves. The edges of each leaves are "undulated", or wavy. It has fragrant white flowers, shaped like small bells (only 1/2" wide), that grow in clusters among the leaves. Ripe round fruits are yellow-tan in color, only 1/2" in diameter. Each fruit contains approximately 25 tiny brown seeds.

**Distribution:** *P. undulatum* is found in abundance in Kamuela. It tends to invade mesic forest (not too wet, nor too dry) at elevations between 1600–4000 ft. It may be spread by birds that eat the fruits. Not only is this plant found on Hawai'i, but it is also found on L-na'i, and is considered extremely invasive in Jamaica and South Africa.

**Other Information:** *P. undulatum* has a wide dome that tends to shade out native plants, depriving them of needed sunlight and preventing new ones from growing. It also uses resources like mineral nutrients and water that native plants would otherwise be using.

**Contact:**

Prepared by MLC

**Local Name:** none

**Scientific Name:** *Tibouchina longifolia*

**Family :** (Melastomataceae Family)

**Origin and Status:**

- ≈ Invasive weed in Hawai'i
- ≈ Native to the Neotropics (Mexico, West Indies, Bolivia)
- ≈ First collected on Hawai'i in 1983.

**Description:** *Tibouchina longifolia* is a shrub that grows to 6 feet tall. It has hairy oblong-shaped leaves (1 1/2-5" long, 1/2-1" wide), with 3 to 7 main veins, or nerves, and pointed tips. Young stems are hairy as well, but turn semi-woody and glabrous (without hairs) as they mature. Flowers grow in clusters, called inflorescences, up to 6 inches long. Each flower is tiny, only 1/2" wide, having 5 white petals. Its fruits are small and oval-shaped, less than 1/2" long.

**Distribution:** So far, *T. longifolia* has been collected and identified from Stainback Highway in Hilo and Lava Tree State Park in Puna.

**Other Information:** *T. longifolia* is sometimes called "weedy" in its native land, even though it has pest that attack it there. It could become weedy here in Hawai'i as well, especially since there are no known predators for it here. Like other exotic pests, it can establish quickly, growing over and crowding out areas where natives plants should be growing instead.

**Contact:**