Invasive Species Fact Sheet

Pacific Islands Area

Strawberry guava *(Psidium cattleianum)*

Scientific name & Code
Psidium cattleianum Sabine., **PSCA**
Synonyms – *Psidium cattleianum* var. *littorale* (Raddi) Mattos, *Psidium littorale* Raddi var. *longipes* (O. Berg) Fosb.

Family:
Myrtaceae – Myrtle Family

Duration/Growth Habit:
Perennial Tree/Shrub

Common names:
English – strawberry guava, Cattley guava, cherry guava, Chinese guava, purple guava, small guava
Hawaiian – waiawi ‘ula ‘ula

Origin:
South America

Description:
Evergreen shrub or slender tree, 1-3 (8) m high, Branchlets cylindrical, smooth. Leaves aromatic, leathery, hairless, obovate to elliptic-ovate 3.5-13.5 cm long, 2.5-6 cm wide, both surfaces with raised lateral veins. Flowers usually solitary in leaf axils, sepals 4-5 mm long, persistent in fruit, petals white, obovate, 5-7 mm long. Berries red to purplish red (occasionally yellow), globose to ellipsoid, glossy and smooth 2-3 cm diameter with whitish pulp. Seeds about 5 mm long, smooth.

Propagation:
Prolific seed producer. Suckers readily. Seeds spread by birds, pigs, and cattle.

Distribution:
Identified in Hawaii (Hawai’i, Kaua’i, Lana’i, Maui, Moloka’i O’ahu), Pohnpei, Palau (main island group)

Habitat/Ecology:
Thicket forming, shade tolerant tree in forests, forest openings, and mountain slopes. Favors moist or wet rainforest slopes between 500 and 4500 feet elevation (occasionally a small shrub in beach thickets).

Environmental impact:
Able to invade intact and undisturbed rainforest. Fast growing and produces dense populations of root suckers and seedlings. Density of stands and allelopathic characteristics inhibit other species. Serious pest in pastures and rainforests.

Management:
Physical – Pull or dig out small plants. Leave on site to rot down.

Chemical – Sensitive to foliar, frill, and cut-surface applications of triclopyr, dicamba, and 2,4-D (in descending order of efficacy). Sensitive to basal bark applications of 2,4-D, picloram, and triclopyr. Responses to soil applications of tebuthiuron and hexazinone were erratic.

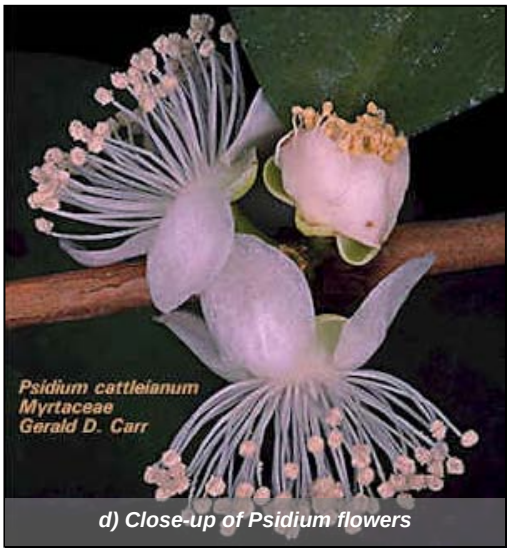
Biological – Four insect species have been found to create deleterious effects: a leaf gall produced by *Tectococcus ovatus*, bud galls produced by *Dasineura gigantea*, a seed gall produced by *Eurytoma psidii*, and a shoot gall produced by *Eurytoma cattleianii* or *Eurytoma desantisi*. Other insects may be effective but can attack other plant species as well.

PIER Risk Assessment: High Risk, score: 18

a) Psidium flowers and leaves

b) Psidium leaves and berries

c) Psidium thicket



d) Close-up of Psidium flowers

e) Larger Psidium tree

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