

Oahu's Worst Invaders

Oahu's forests have been silently invaded by nonnative plant species for hundreds of years. The species shown here are among Oahu's worst invaders in terms of current population size, environmental impact, and difficulty of management.



Koster's Curse, *Clidemia hirta*
Central & South America

Forms dense monocultures and outcompetes native species



Maile Pilau, *Paederia foetida*
India to Malaysia

Grows as a vine; difficult to control and tends to cover other vegetation



Octopus Tree, *Schefflera actinophylla*
Australia, New Guinea

Fast growing tree with persistent leaves



Bush Currant, *Miconia calvenscens*
Central & South America

Forms shallow rooted monocultures, often leading to erosion



Strawberry Guava, *Psidium cattleianum*
South America

Grows as in dense stands, inhibits growth of other species by exuding allelopathic chemicals into soil



Fiddlewood, *Citharexylum spinosum*
West Indies

Quickly grows to form dense stands



Duck's Eye, *Ardisia elliptica*
Asia

Grows rapidly and forms dense, monotypic stands



Christmas berry, *Schinus terebinthifolius*
South America

Shades out competing vegetation and exudes allelopathic chemicals into soil



Fountain Grass, *Pennisetum setaceum*
Africa

Outcompetes native herb species and promotes wildfires

African Tulip Tree, *Spathodea campanulata*
West Africa

A large, fast growing tree that produces many wind dispersed seeds



The Oahu Early Detection (OED) Project is working to identify and map the distribution of incipient weed species on Oahu. Through early detection and rapid response, we hope to manage incipient weeds before they become as widespread as the species depicted here.

OED is a partnership of the Bishop Museum and the Oahu Invasive Species Committee. To learn more, visit our website at www.hear.org/oisc/oahuearlydetectionproject or contact us at oed@bishopmuseum.org