





# Maui Invasive Species Committee's Targeted Plants and Animals in South Maui

Category & Name	Description	Why it's a problem
Vine  Ivy gourd <i>Coccinia grandis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five-petaled white flower and oblong, red fruits.</li> </ul>	Ivy gourd attacks shrubs, trees, fences, and telephone poles. If left unchecked, ivy gourd can form a dense canopy that quickly smothers out its hosts under a solid blanket of vines.
Grass/Sedge  Giant reed <i>Arundo donax</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erect, cane-like grass.</li> <li>• Grows to 20 feet tall.</li> <li>• Root stocks form compact masses.</li> </ul>	Giant reed spreads quickly by root pieces in dirt or waterways. It traps sediments and blocks stream flow, leading to erosion and flooding. Once established, giant reed forms dense stands that choke out native plants and alter waterbird habitat.
Grass/Sedge  Fountain grass <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cylindrical leaves grow in a dense clump up to 4 feet tall.</li> <li>• Purplish flower heads.</li> </ul>	Fountain grass is drought and fire resistant. Seeds spread by the wind, animals, vehicles, and people. Fountain grass fuels wildfires, damaging plants not adapted to fire.
Frogs  Coqui frog <i>Eleutherodactylus coqui</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rounded body, up to 2 inches long.</li> <li>• Males emit loud two-note call at night.</li> </ul>	Coqui can reach densities of 10,000 individuals per acre, consuming large numbers of insects (not mosquitoes!). Maui's forest birds depend on native insects for food. The coquis' loud call affects plant retailers, hotel businesses, and real estate transactions.

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