









Maui Invasive Species Committee's Targeted Plants and Animals in Upcountry

Category & Name	Description	Why it's a problem
Vine  Ivy gourd <i>Coccinia grandis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five-petaled white flower and oblong, red fruits. 	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.
Vine  Rubber vine <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark shiny leaves with pink flower. • Triangular, paired seed pods. 	Rubber vine smothers and restricts other plants from growing by winding around trunks, stems and branches. Rubber vine is poisonous. When ingested, it can affect the heart, stomach, and intestines of humans and animals. The plant's milky sap can cause rashes and blisters. The plant's dust can cause coughing, nose swelling, and eyelid blisters.
Grass/Sedge  Pampas grass <i>Cortaderia sp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow leaves with sharp, serrated edges. • White, purple plumes up to 13 feet tall. 	Pampas grass forms dense monotypic stands. It spreads rapidly. Seeds are dispersed by wind up to 20 miles away. It can crowd out native plants, damage grazing lands, and create a fire hazard.
Grass/Sedge  Giant reed <i>Arundo donax</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect, cane-like grass. • Grows to 20 feet tall. • Root stocks form compact masses. 	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.

Call 573-MISC (6472)

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Grass/Sedge  Fountain grass <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cylindrical leaves grow in a dense clump up to 4 feet tall. • Purplish flower heads. 	Fountain grass is drought and fire resistant. Seeds spread by the wind, animals, vehicles, and people. Fountain grass fuels wildfires, damaging dry forest plants not adapted to fire.
Parrots  Mitred conure <i>Aratinga mitrata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large (16-17") green birds with red faces. • Scattered red feathers on other body parts. • Creamy-white eye rings. • Loud, raucous calls. 	Mitred conures eat the seeds of invasive plants and can spread them into new areas. The conures can damage fruit and seed crops, and spread diseases and parasites to humans, birds, and domestic poultry. The conures can displace native seabirds from nesting burrows.
Lizard  Veiled chameleons <i>Chamaeleo calyptratus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bony shark fin-like shield on head. • Adults often have vertical stripes. • Juveniles are bright green. • Pale fleshy fringe from below snout to base of tail. 	Veiled chameleons are larger than Jackson's chameleon. Veiled chameleons can live and breed in more areas on Maui than the Jackson's. These larger chameleons can capture small birds in mid-flight. Veiled chameleons threaten Maui's native birds, plants, and insects.
Frogs  Coqui frog <i>Eleutherodactylus coqui</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounded body, up to 2 inches long. • Males emit loud two-note call at night. 	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.