

WANTED

Rubber Vine Call 573-MISC



Photo by USGS-BRD.



Flower, seed pods, and leaves.

What is it?

- Rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) is a fast-growing climbing plant from Madagascar that is invading Hawai‘i.
- The shiny, dark green leaves are 2-4 inches long.
- The 2 inch white to lilac flowers have a broad funnel-shaped tube and five lobes.
- Seeds form in triangular pods in wing-like pairs 4-5 inches long.
- Rubber vine grows in both dry and moist areas at low elevations. It can reach 50 feet high. Seeds spread by wind and water.

Why is it a problem in Hawai‘i?

- It smothers and restricts other plants from growing by winding around trunks, stems and branches.
- Rubber vine is poisonous. When eaten, it interferes with heart operation in humans and animals. It also causes stomach and intestinal upset. The milky sap can cause burning rashes and blisters. When dry, a powdery dust emerges and can cause coughing, nose swelling and eyelid blisters.

What is MISC doing?

- The Maui Invasive Species Committee is a partnership fighting to protect Maui County from invasive plants and animals that threaten our environment, economy, and quality of life.
- MISC works to prevent invasive species from becoming established in Maui.
- MISC controls invasive species on private and public property free of charge.
- MISC educates people about invasive species and how to protect Maui.

What can you do?

- Never import or plant rubber vine.
- If you have rubber vine, call MISC and give us permission to control it on your property.
- If you see rubber vine growing or for sale, call MISC.
- Encourage your friends not to buy this or other pest plants so nurseries will stop selling them.
- Learn more. Visit the website <http://www.hear.org/AlienSpeciesInHawaii/>

Together we can keep “Maui Nō Ka ‘Oī!”



P.O. Box 983, Makawao, HI 96768
Phone: (808) 573-MISC (6472) Fax: (808) 573-6475
Email: miscpr@hawaii.edu
Website: www.mauiisc.org