

**PEST
ALERT**

Gorse Please Call **553-5236**



Photographs by Forest & Kim Starr (USGS)

What is it?

- Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) is a spiny shrub from Great Britain that is invading Hawaii.
- The 'leaves' of the plant are shaped like spines and very sharp.
- It has small, bright yellow flowers.
- This plant rapidly grows up to about 3-5 meters in height.
- Gorse is listed as a **State noxious weed**.*
- Gorse grows in disturbed areas in both high and lower elevations.

Why is it a problem in Hawaii?

- It forms dense monotypic thickets that choke out native vegetation and are impassable by animals or humans.
- Animals can spread gorse seeds that become attached to their fur or feathers.
- Gorse is very hard to eliminate once it becomes established in an area.
- **It creates a fire hazard**, and grows back rapidly in burned areas.
- **It forms spiny thickets which are miserable for hikers and hunters.**

What is MoMISC doing?

- The Molokai/Maui Invasive Species Committee is a multi-sector partnership fighting to protect Molokai from invasive plants and animals that threaten our environment, economy, and quality of life.
- MoMISC prevents new invasive species from becoming established on Molokai through education and outreach.
- MoMISC works with the community to control invasive species on private and public property.

What can you do?

- Do not grow gorse.
- Learn to identify invasive species in the MoMISC brochure.
- Call MoMISC at 553-5236 if you see gorse anywhere on Molokai.
- Grow native plants instead of non-native plants. Encourage your friends to do the same.
- Before purchasing a plant, check if it is invasive. You can ask your nursery, call MoMISC for assistance, or check <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hortweeds/specieslist.htm>
- For more information, visit our website, <http://www.hear.org/AlienSpeciesInHawaii/>

*illegal to transport or introduce to areas free or mostly free of the weed



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