

SOLUTION



The BIISC field crew will remove this plant for you if you wish to grant them permission to access your property. Simply call the BIISC office (933-3345) to schedule an appointment for eradication. If you wish to remove this plant yourself, we recommend using a cut-stump method and applying a triclopyr herbicide such as Garlon. This must be done quickly, as the sap will begin to seep from the stump as soon as it is cut.

Photo: BIISC crew removing roadside rubber vine in Kawaihae



What is Early Detection?

Early detection and rapid response are widely regarded as the most cost-effective approaches to dealing with invasive species.

By detecting potentially harmful species early and responding rapidly to control small populations, we can prevent such species from becoming established.

BIISC has a two man crew of botanists that has completed 1,500 survey miles in 24 months of roadside surveys.

BUT THE BIG ISLAND HAS THOUSANDS OF MILES MORE, AND THEY CAN'T SEE THE BACKYARDS. WE NEED CITIZENS HELP!

How is the watch list of species selected for early detection teams?

Species Factors:

Have a substantial negative impact on local ecosystems, humans, economy

Are findable, preventable, actionable

Categories

- *eradicable* (low-no populations in the region),
- *Species for survey/map* (species that need delineating surveys and distribution documented),
- *species to avoid/remove* (already spreading, sometimes sold commercially but should not be planted, should be controlled when possible)



EARLY DETECTION ALERT



RUBBER VINE (CRYPTOSTEGIA)

REPORT THIS PEST

HAWAII EARLY DETECTION
NETWORK USGS PBIN PCSU
BIISC HOTLINE (808)961-3299
www.reportapest.org



HO'ĀLA I KA MAKĀ

Restoring the Land Awakenning the People

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WHY THIS PLANT IS A CONCERN FOR HAWAII

Rubbervine (*Cryptostegia*) is being considered for noxious weed status in Hawaii due to its rapid dispersal and toxicity. Its plumed seeds are readily dispersed long distances by wind and carried by water into drainage ditches. In Australia, *Cryptostegia grandiflora* forms dense impenetrable thickets and can smother all native vegetation up to 40 meters in height. This plant is extremely drought tolerant, can grow in harsh conditions in very little soil and has even been seen growing on 'A'ā lava.

In Hawai'i, rubbervine is likely cultivated on all the main islands. The Maui Invasive Species Committee has been diligent in eradicating *Cryptostegia madagascariensis* on Moloka'i and controlling wild populations on Maui. On the Big Island, we are targeting this plant for eradication and we cannot do so without the help of the community.

DESCRIPTION

Rubbervine can be a woody climber reaching up to 15 meters or a many-stemmed shrub of 1-3m in height, with grayish-brown and slender stems. The dark green, simple leaves are opposite, glossy, elliptic (6-10cm long and 2-4cm wide) and with smooth, non-serrated edges. Flowers are white inside and pale purple or pink outside. Fruits are paired, greenish pods of 10-12 cm length and 3-4cm wide and each fruit contains 200-250 brown, flat seeds with long, fine hairs of 1-1.5cm in length. The root system reaches a depth of up to 12 meters.



TOXICITY

Rubbervine is in the Milkweed family (Asclepiadaceae), which contains many species with varying levels of toxicity, such as oleander (*Nerium oleander*) and be-still tree (*Thevetia peruviana*). The milky sap of these plants contains cardiac glycosides, a common cause of domestic poisonings. Rubbervine is especially toxic; the acrid, sticky, milky sap is a drastic irritant to the skin, and gloves should be worn when pruning or working with the plants.

