

WEED OF THE WEEK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY KAUA'I COMMUNITY RADIO & KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

WEEK THIRTEEN, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

RUBBERVINE

Cryptostegia grandiflora & *C. madagascariensis*



Forest & Kim Starr

Description: Climbing vine that can also grow as a bush with pin-purple flowers & 4 inch triangular & come in wing-like pairs. The leaves are shiny dark-green & 3 inches long

Native Range: Madagascar

Distribution: Found in cultivation on Kaua'i, infestations occur on neighbor islands & are ISC targets

Weed Risk Assessment Score: 13- HIGH RISK

INVASIVE INFO

- On DOFAW's list of Hawai'i's **Most Invasive Horticultural Plants** to avoid planting
- It was cultivated because of its showy flowers, then **but jumped the fence!**
- Wraps tightly around other plants, constricting them & restricting their growth
- On Kaua'i Landscaping Industry Council's **"Don't Sell" List**
- Grows fast, **smothers other plants**, & can even climb up to 45 feet high into tree canopies
- One of the **Top Ten Invasive Plants** in Australia
- **Extremely poisonous** to humans & animals
- Dry vines give off a powdery dust that can cause **cough attacks, nose swelling, & blisters on eyelids**
- **Milky sap** can cause **rashes & blisters**
- Each seedpod has **340-840** seeds which can be spread by wind & water

If you have Rubbervine in your garden, replace it with a Native Species like Maile!

**A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT &
A HEALTHY YOU.**