

WEED OF THE WEEK

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

WEEK FOURTEEN, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

HIPTAGE

Hiptage benghalensis



Description: Climbing woody vine (or shrub) with white-yellowish hairs & fragrant pink-white flowers with yellow marks. Unique papery three-winged fruit known as "samara." Leathery leaves grow opposite to about 8 inches long.

Native Range: India, Southeast Asia, Philippines

Distribution: Escaped cultivation on Kaua'i (about 500 acres near Huleia Valley) & O'ahu (naturalizing in Manoa Valley)

Weed Risk Assessment Score: 8- HIGH RISK

INVASIVE INFO

- **Known to be highly invasive** on Mauritius, Florida, & Reunion, as well as in Australian rainforests
- Seeds are easily **dispersed by wind**
- Nominated as one of the 100 "**World's Worst**" invaders
- Can grow from **sea level to 3,500 feet** elevation, threatening some of Kaua'i's native ecosystems
- Cultivated for its pretty flowers, but easily
- One of DOFAW's "**Most Invasive Horticultural Plants**" to avoid in your garden
- As a vine it climbs surrounding vegetation smothering it & **blocking resources** to the understory
- As a shrub, it forms **dense thickets**, crowding out other plants
- Can **invade dry & moist areas**, taking over a variety of ecosystems

Let's keep Hiptage out of our native ecosystems!
By removing it from sea level gardens, we can prevent it from spreading into the mountains.

**FROM MAUKA TO MAKAI,
WE CAN TAKE CARE OF KAUA'I**