

WEED OF THE WEEK

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

WEEK SEVENTEEN, OCTOBER 15, 2008

MULE'S FOOT FERN

Angiopteris evecta



Forest & Kim Starr

Description: Large fern with a stem that grows up to 3 feet tall & fronds up to 10 feet long & 6 feet wide. Spores are clustered into two brown rows on the underside of the frond.

Native Range: Western Melanesia & Polynesia

Distribution: Spreading in wet mountain areas of O'ahu, found on all the major islands except for Moloka'i

Weed Risk Assessment Score: 7- HIGH RISK

INVASIVE INFO

- On DOFAW's list of "Most Invasive Horticultural Invasive Species to Avoid Planting"
- Large fronds shade out other plants
- Takes up a huge footprint in the forest with its massive fronds
- Spores are easily dispersed by the wind
- On O'ahu Nursery Growers Association's Codes of Conduct & Hawai'i Association of Landscape Architect's invasive list as a "do not sell" species
- Invading wet mountain areas on O'ahu, spread from Lyon's Arboretum in Manoa, would be a real problem in Koke'e
- A management target of The Nature Conservancy to preserve native Hawaiian species biodiversity
- Starting to escape cultivation on Kaua'i, found in the back of Wainiha Valley in a remote native plant community

Let's get mule's foot fern out of our gardens before its spores spread up into the mountains like

Australian Tree Fern!

**WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER TREE FERN
INVASION ON KAUA'I!**