

WEED OF THE WEEK

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

WEEK FOUR, JULY 16, 2008

FOUNTAIN GRASS

Pennisetum setaceum



Description: Bunch grass that grows 3-4 ft. tall with long narrow green leaves and pink-yellowish plumes

Native Range: Northern Africa

First Introduced to Hawai'i: 1914 as ornamental

Known Distribution: Mauka Kalaheo & Hanapepe, possible north shore population

On State Noxious Weed List? Yes

Weed Risk Assessment Score: High=26

INVASIVE INFO

- **Grows rapidly**, forming dense stands & crowding out other plants
- **Invades rangelands & is not useful** as a pasture grass, cattle don't like to eat it
- Can invade from **sea level to 8000 ft!**
- **Seeds spread easily** by wind, vehicles, hiking boots/clothes, & water
- **Fire-promoting**, fueling brush fires in heavily infested areas like on the Big Island
- **Changes the natural ecosystem** from dry forest to savannah, altering habitat
- Listed as one of the Division of Forestry & Wildlife's (DOFAW) "**Most Invasive Horticultural Plants**"

HELP TO PREVENT FIRES BY STOPPING THE SPREAD OF FOUNTAIN GRASS!

If you see Fountain Grass on Kaua'i,
CALL 643-PEST!