

WEED OF THE WEEK

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

WEEK SEVEN, AUGUST 6, 2008

AUSTRALIAN TREE FERN

Sphaeropteris/Cyathea cooperi



Forest & Kim Starr

Description: Large fern growing up to 40 ft. tall with lacy fronds and whitish scales on its trunk

Native Range: Australia

Known Distribution: Worst infestations are known on Kaua'i, spreading into the native forests of Hanalei and Koke'e

Weed Risk Assessment Score: 8-HIGH RISK

INVASIVE INFO

- Each tree fern produces between **15-18 BILLION** spores every year that are easily dispersed by wind
- Grows 15cm every year, **out-competing native species** for the canopy sunlight and water
- Has already begun **taking over** precious native forest areas on Kaua'i
- On DOFAW's list of Hawai'i's **Most Invasive Horticultural Plants** to avoid planting
- On the "**discontinue selling**" list for nurseries who signed on to Kaua'i Landscaping Industry Council's Voluntary Codes of Conduct

**DON'T LET YOUR GARDEN
JUMP THE FENCE!**

**If you have Australian Tree Fern
in your Garden, GO NATIVE!
Try Hapu'u or 'Ama'u.**