

Protect the Forest
(and watershed)
from your Backyard...



...JUST SAY NO TO
INVASIVE SPECIES !



Forrest & Kim Starr

Australian tree fern*
Sphaopteris cooperi

Native to Eastern Australia.
Impacts: Spread by tiny wind-borne spores that can travel many miles, this fern rapidly invades to form monotypic stands that displace under-story species. It is currently taking over upper-elevation forests in Wainiha Valley and Kokee.



Forrest & Kim Starr

Fountain grass* and **
Pennisetum setaceum

Native to Africa.
Impacts: This highly aggressive clumping grass disperses by airborne seed heads. It is fire adapted and capable of spreading fire quickly. Another important ornamental grass to avoid is pampas grass (*Cortaderia spp.*), recently eradicated from Kaua'i.



Forrest & Kim Starr

Strawberry guava*
Psidium cattleianum

Native to South America.
Impacts: One of the worst invaders in Hawaii, strawberry guava grows rapidly and produces prolific fruit with highly viable seeds which are widely dispersed by pigs and birds. It also releases chemicals into the soil that inhibit the growth of any other species.



Wikicommons

Molucca raspberry**
Rubus sieboldii

Native to Australia and mid-western Asia.
Impacts: This rambling, thorny plant forms dense thickets that can easily take over your yard. It spreads by canes and suckers, as well as by birds, and easily resprouts after cutting. It is naturalized on Hawai'i and Kaua'i.



Forrest & Kim Starr

Albizia*
Falcateria moluccana

Native to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.
Impacts: Originally introduced for reforestation, albizia is a fast-growing tree that displaces natives and facilitates growth of other invasives. Forest degradation contributes to increased erosion and sedimentation and decreased recharging of the aquifer.



HDAR

Giant salvinia***
Salvinia molesta

Native to Brazil.
Impacts: This floating aquatic plant was introduced as an ornamental for ponds and quickly spread via aquarium releases, fishing, and boating gear. It forms dense mats that can double in size weekly, choking out the water below. Currently infesting Kilauea River and extremely hard to eradicate.



Forrest & Kim Starr

Octopus tree*
Schefflera actinophylla

Native to Australia and New Guinea.
Impacts: Previously sold as an ornamental, Schefflera grows rapidly, tolerates a range of habitats, and is widely dispersed by birds. It is now a major invader in Hawai'i and has naturalized throughout much of Kaua'i.

* On the Pono Blacklist **On HI state Noxious Weed List ***Illegal to sell in Hawaii

Aloha Home-owners and Gardeners:

Escaped plants such as the 7 shown above are already causing great harm to Kaua'i's forests, watersheds, and ecosystems—as can many other invasive species not shown here. A list of some of the worst species to avoid is available at www.kauaiisc.org/pono/do-not-plant-list/ as part of the Pono Endorsement Program. Participating nurseries and landscapers have made a voluntary commitment to stop the sale and use of specific invasive plants on Kaua'i.

Pono-endorsed professionals can provide advice to help you choose safe alternatives for Kaua'i gardens. See link below.



For more information
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www.kauaiisc.org/pono

