

**PEST
ALERT**

Barbados Gooseberry

**Please Call
553-5236**



Photo by ARC-PPRI.



Photographs by TNC Hawaii



What is it?

- Barbados gooseberry (*Pereskia aculeata*) is a cactus from the West Indies that is invading Hawaii.
- Gooseberry appears as an erect woody liana when young, and later a thorny vine that can climb up trees.
- The 2-4 inch long, eye-shaped leaves are a dark glossy green.
- It is covered in clusters of long slender spines (1-2 inches long).
- The flowers are white, yellowish or pinkish.
- The 1/2-3/4 inch wide fruits are round or oval and yellow, orange, or red in color.

Why is it a problem in Hawaii?

- If left unchecked, Barbados gooseberry can form a dense canopy that quickly smothers out native vegetation under a solid blanket of vines.
- It forms dense, spiny thickets and litter which are miserable for hikers and hunters.
- Plants can spread through seeds or various plant parts (leaves, stems, etc).

What is MoMISC doing?

- The Molokai/Maui Invasive Species Committee is a multi-sector partnership fighting to protect Molokai from invasive plants and animals that threaten our environment, economy, and quality of life.
- MoMISC prevents new invasive species from becoming established on Molokai through education and outreach.
- MoMISC works with the community to control invasive species on private and public property.

What can you do?

- Do not grow Barbados gooseberry.
- Learn to identify invasive species in the MoMISC brochure.
- Call MoMISC at 553-5236 if you see Barbados gooseberry anywhere on Molokai.
- Grow native plants instead of non-native plants. Encourage your friends to do the same.
- Before purchasing a plant, check if it is invasive. You can ask your nursery, call MoMISC for assistance, or check <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hortweeds/specieslist.htm>
- For more information, visit our website, <http://www.hear.org/AlienSpeciesInHawaii/>



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