

PEST ALERT

Rubber Vine
Call 553-5236



Photo by USGS-BRD.



Flower, seed pods, and leaves.

What is it?

- Rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) is a fast-growing climbing plant from Madagascar that is invading Hawaii.
- It can reach 50 feet high growing into tree canopies.
- The shiny, dark green leaves are 2-4 inches long.
- The 2 inch white lilac flowers have broad funnel-shaped tube and five lobes.
- Wind-dispersed seeds form in triangular pods in wing-like pairs 4-5 inches long.
- Rubber vine grows in dry and moist areas at low elevations.

Why is it a problem in Hawaii?

- Rubber vine smothers and restricts other plants from growing by winding around trunks, stems and branches.
- Rubber vine is poisonous. When eaten, it may interfere with heart operation in humans and animals. It also causes stomach and intestinal upset. The milky sap can cause burning rashes and blisters. When dry, a powdery dust emerges and can cause coughing, nose swelling and eyelid blisters.

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?

- Never import or plant rubber vine.
- Call MoMISC if you see rubber vine anywhere on Molokai
- Encourage your friends not to buy this or other pest plants so nurseries will stop selling them.
- Before purchasing a plant, check if it is invasive.
- Learn to identify invasive species in the MoMISC brochure.
- Learn more. Visit the website <http://www.hear.org/AlienSpeciesInHawaii/>



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Molokai/Maui Invasive Species Committee

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