

# ALERT!

A highly invasive weed (listed as a state noxious pest) has been discovered in the Kahuku and Pūpūkea regions of the Ko'olau Mountains:

Your kōkua is needed to prevent its spread and protect people and our native plants and animals!

# Chromolaena odorata

(Common names include: Siam Weed, Bitter Bush, Devil Weed, Rey del Todo and others)

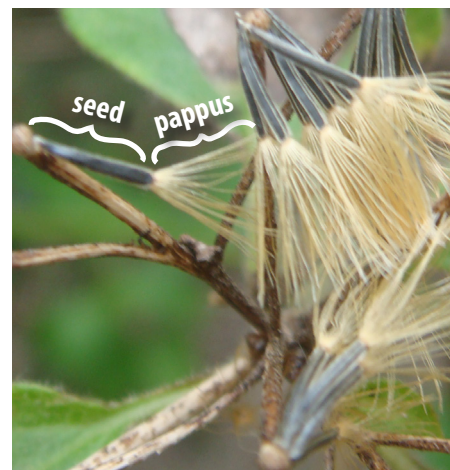
## Facts about *C. odorata*:

- *C. odorata* is a candidate for one of the top 100 worst weeds in the world;
- This is the first record of this weed in the Hawaiian Islands;
- Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and severe drought;
- Prefers full sun to partial shade (does not tolerate heavy shade);
- Rapidly forms dense thickets in disturbed/cleared areas;
- Creates a fire hazard;
- Alleleopathic (prevents other plants from growing nearby);
- **Allergen/toxic to humans** (causes skin problems and asthma in allergy-prone people);
- Can be toxic to animals, causing diarrhea and death in extreme cases;
- Host for recognized pests and pathogens;
- Can grow and spread from cut stems;
- Can mature in a year and begin producing seed;
- Produces many wind-dispersed seeds (up to 800,000 per plant) persisting more than a year in soil;
- **Seeds are easily spread unintentionally by hikers, vehicles, equipment and mammals.**



## *C. odorata* characteristics:

- Shrub; forms dense tangled bushes 1.5-2 m in height (some branches can grow up trees to 20 m);
- Leaves extend from stem in opposite pairs, light green with **velvety hairs**, **triangular shape**, leaf edges can have large serrations (teeth) or can be smooth;
- Leaves have distinctive 3-vein "pitchfork" pattern;
- Distinct odor when leaves crushed;
- **Stems have short, soft hairs** (older stems woody);
- Flowers in small round clusters, white to mauve color, 4-5 mm long; individual flower shape is slender trumpet; **long, wispy structure (style) extends beyond flower petals (corolla)**, see comparison photos, below;
- Seeds are dark, 3-4 mm long, with a 5 mm long fluffy structure (pappus) – see photo, right.



## Can be easily confused with:

### *Ageratina adenophora*

(Maui Pamakani, Pamakani Haole; *not native*)

- Plant not hairy
- Stems dark red/purple
- Leaves dark green
- Seeds smaller (1.5 mm long), pappus 4 mm long

### *Pluchea carolinensis*

(Sourbush; *not native*)

- Does not form tangled shrub
- Leaves dull gray-green, oblong to elliptic shape
- Seeds smaller (1 mm long), pappus 2-3 mm long

### *C. odorata*



FLOWERS:



LEAVES:

### Look-a-like weed

#### *A. adenophora*



### Look-a-like weed

#### *P. carolinensis*



*A. adenophora* & *P. carolinensis* photos by Forest & Kim Starr

## What you can do:

If you think you've spotted *C. odorata*:

- Please report all sightings to the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) so it can be identified and removed – note where you found it, and take photos, if possible;
- **DO NOT** try to pull it out, as it grows from any fragments that may be left behind.

For more information, or to report a sighting of *C. odorata*, please contact **OISC** at: [oisc@hawaii.edu](mailto:oisc@hawaii.edu), 266-7994

