


# Fire risk report for *Cynanchum gerrardii*

<b>Full Species Name</b> <i>Cynanchum gerrardii</i> (Harv.) Liede
<b>Family:</b> Apocynaceae
<b>Common names:</b>
<b>Synonyms:</b> <i>Cynanchum tetrapterum</i>
Known occurrences (as of 2020) 
Year first documented as naturalized in Hawai'i: 2011
This species has not yet been ranked by the Hawai'i Weed Risk Assessment program as of 2020.
<a href="#">View photos on Starr Environmental</a>
<a href="#">View on Wikipedia</a>
<a href="#">View occurrences on iNaturalist</a>
<a href="#">View at Plants of Hawaii</a>
<a href="#">View photos on Flickr</a>

0 | .5 1  
Lowest risk ⇔ Highest risk

This species is likely a **low** fire risk in Hawai'i with a fire risk score of **0.22**.

This species was ranked by our machine learning algorithm using the data presented on the next page. A predicted score of > .34 suggests the plant is a high fire risk.

Summary of Fire ecology	
Native habitat fire proneness	No Data
Fire promoting plant in its native range	No
Fire promoting plant in its introduced range*	No
Regenerates after fire	No Data
Promoted by fire	No Data
Reported flammable*	No Data
Relative is flammable*	Yes

\*These values were used by the model to predict fire risk

## Detailed summary of Fire Ecology

Native habitat fire proneness (In any part of the plant's native range is its habitat described as fire prone due to natural or human caused fires?)	No Data	
Fire promoting plant in its native range (Does the species act as a major fuel source, increase fire severity, frequency, or modify fuel bed characteristics within its native range?)	No	#succulent, unlikely
Fire promoting plant in its introduced range (Same as Fire Promoting Native but within the species introduced range)	No	#succulent, unlikely
Regenerates after fire (Does the plant regrow after fire by any means? This includes resprouters, reseeder, and recruiters which dispersed into the area within approximately one year post fire)	No Data	
Promoted by fire (Does the plant increase in abundance after a fire?)	No Data	
Reported flammable (Is the species described as being flammable, being a major wildfire fuel, or high fire risk?)	No Data	

Relative is flammable (Does a plant in the same genus meet the Reported Flammable criteria?)	Yes	<p>"Fuels: There was very little information on the fuel characteristics of either swallow-wort species as of 2009. Louise's swallow-wort was one of a number of invasive species tested for combustion characteristics in a laboratory study. As a group, invasive vines (including Louise's swallow-wort) had a significantly higher average effective heat of combustion (<math>P=0.0003</math>) and total heat release (<math>P=0.0134</math>) than noninvasive vines. The authors speculated that invasive species with relatively high values for these characteristics could change fuel characteristics of an area to the extent that fire regimes could be altered. This change would likely occur in areas where the invasive species replaced species with relatively low combustion values. The authors further suggested that the presence of these invasive species "in forests and overgrown fields represents a live fuel load that could be problematic in dry conditions if they also produce enough biomass to release more heat, overall, than the natural vegetation under the same conditions. Crowning and replacement fires could be more likely where these invasive species comprise a large proportion of the fuel bed."</p> <p># weak evidence</p> <p><a href="https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/vine/cynspp/all.html#FIRE%20EFFECTS%20AND%20MANAGEMENT">https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/vine/cynspp/all.html#FIRE%20EFFECTS%20AND%20MANAGEMENT</a></p>
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Text in quotes are direct quotes from the source

Text in square brackets was added by the assessor to clarify something or to summarize from a figure.

Text preceded by a “#” is comment from the assessor

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The data presented were assembled from literature and database searches for each species using as much data as could be collected regarding the plant’s fire ecology under natural conditions. Searches aimed to be exhaustive and consist of as much data as could be located in 2020. Our machine learning algorithm was trained on 49 species of plants which had their fire risk ranked by 49 managers in Hawai’i in November 2020. The model used a conditional random forest regression algorithm to predict scores for each species using the manager score as the response variable and the fire ecology traits of each plant as the predictor variables to generate a fire risk score. This trained model was then used to predict the fire risk for all species which were not ranked by managers. The model was calibrated such that it is 90% accurate at predicting high fire risk plants and 79% accurate at predicting low fire risk plants. This research

and the resulting fire risk model has been published in the journal [Biological Invasions](#) by [Kevin Faccenda](#) and [Curt Daehler](#) (both at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa).

Note that the analysis doesn't account for a plant species' spatial distribution, population density, or distinct climate and ecosystem conditions (which can also influence fire risk). The fire risk of these species are mostly under "worst case" environmental conditions where the climate is dry enough to maintain fire, but wet enough to allow for plant growth and fuel accumulation. The fire risk ranking should not be taken as a stand-alone risk metric in prioritizing weed control efforts. Rather, this information may also be useful for determining if a newly discovered species poses a potential fire threat in wildland areas.

More general information on the weed risks and ecology of non-native plants in Hawai'i is available from the Hawai'i Invasive Species Committee's [Weed Risk Assessment database](#).

View more fact sheets at <https://www.pacificfireexchange.org/weed-fire-risk-assessments>

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Fact sheet prepared by Kevin Faccenda ([faccenda@hawaii.edu](mailto:faccenda@hawaii.edu)) in November 2021. Data were prepared by Kevin Faccenda in 2020.

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