Fire risk report for *Elaeocarpus angustifolius*

Full Species Name

Elaeocarpus angustifolius Blume

Family: Elaeocarpaceae

Common names:

blue marble tree blue fig

quandong

Synonyms:

Elaeocarpus grandis

Known occurrences (as of 2020)



Year first documented as naturalized in Hawai'i: 2010

This species has been ranked by the Hawai'i Weed Risk Assessment program as Evaluate with a score of 4.

View photos on Starr Environmental

View on Wikipedia

View occurrences on iNaturalist

View at Plants of Hawaii

View photos on Flickr

This species is likely a **low** fire risk in Hawai'i with a fire risk score of **0.16**.

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	Non Fire-prone	
Fire promoting plant in its native range	No	
Fire promoting plant in its introduced range*	No	
Regenerates after fire	No	
Promoted by fire	No	
Reported flammable*	No Data	
Relative is flammable*	No	

^{*}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?)	Non Fire- prone	"The CF site (720 m a.s.l., 17°17'S, 145°34'E) is a 200 ha patch of rainforest growing on rich, rocky basalt soils (krasnozems) and is traversed by roads and bordered by pastures. It is classified as Complex Notophyll Vine Forest, type 5b (Tracey 1982). The canopy is uneven, 22-45 m high, with many tree layers. Dominant canopy species (nomenclature as in Hyland 1982) include Argyrodendron peralalum, Castanospermum australe, Toona australis^ Aleurites molucanna., Flindersia brayleyana and Elaeocarpus angustifolius." https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1442-9993.1994.tb01543.x OSUNKOYA, O. O. (1994). Postdispersal survivorship of north Queensland rainforest seeds and fruits: effects of forest, habitat and species. Australian Journal of Ecology, 19(1), 52-64.
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	
Fire promoting plant in its introduced range (Same as Fire Promoting Native but within the species introduced range)	No	
Regenerates after fire (Does the plant regrow after fire by any means? This includes resprouters, reseeders, and recruiters which dispersed into the area within approximately one year post fire)	No	"[lists E. grandis as being killed by fire; table 1]" https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/43671462.pdf Clarke, P. J., Prior, L. D., French, B. J., Vincent, B., Knox, K. J., & Bowman, D. M. (2014). Using a rainforest-flame forest mosaic to test the hypothesis that leaf and litter fuel flammability is under natural selection. Oecologia, 176(4), 1123-1133.

Promoted by fire (Does the plant increase in abundance after a fire?)	No	"We excluded species thought to be largely dependent on fire for establishment, such as eucalypts. In Queensland, we chose five of our six species from among those represented by adults on the 1-ha circular plot beneath the canopy crane at Daintree Rainforest Observatory. From within this pool of 82 species, we chose two that were abundant as juveniles in shaded understoreys (Endiandra microneura and Myristica globosa ssp. muelleri), two that were abundant on forest margins (Elaeocarpus angustifolius and Polyscias australiana)" Lusk, C. H., Kelly, J. W., & Gleason, S. M. (2013). Light requirements of Australian tropical vs. cool-temperate rainforest tree species show different relationships with seedling growth and functional traits. Annals of botany, 111(3), 479-488. https://academic.oup.com/aob/article/111/3/479/146744?login=true
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?)	No	

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

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 <u>Biological Invasions</u> by <u>Kevin Faccenda</u> and <u>Curt Daehler</u> (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 <u>Weed Risk Assessment database</u>.

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

Fact sheet prepared by Kevin Faccenda (<u>faccenda@hawaii.edu</u>) in November 2021. Data were prepared by Kevin Faccenda in 2020.

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