Fire risk report for *Ficus pumila*

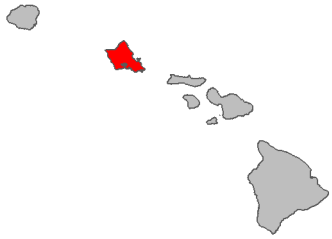
Full Species Name
Ficus pumila L.

Family: Moraceae

Common names:
climbing fig
creeping fig

Synonyms:

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 Low Risk with a score of 2.

View photos on Starr Environmental

View on Wikipedia

View occurrences on iNaturalist

View at Plants of Hawaii

View photos on Flickr

0 | .5 1
Lowest risk ⇔ Highest risk

This species is likely a **low** fire risk in Hawai'i with a fire risk score of **0.30**.

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	Uncertain
Fire promoting plant in its native range	No
Fire promoting plant in its introduced range*	No
Regenerates after fire	No
Promoted by fire	no data
Reported flammable*	Low
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?)	Uncertain	"F. pumila is native to the Old World tropics but has been introduced and is now widely cultivated both indoors and outdoors in the Neotropics, and in some cases has escaped cultivation. In Florida, USA, it is found growing in disturbed thickets (Flora of North America, 2014). In Antioquia, Colombia the species occurs in humid premontane forests (Vascular Plants of Antioquia, 2014). It has also been reported for the Andean region of Bolivia (Bolivia Checklist, 2014). In Hawaii, it has been observed escaping gardens into adjacent disturbed scrub forest of some lowland moist areas, and in New Zealand it has also been reportedly seen escaping cultivation into the edges of forest reserves or spreading from garden rubbish dumped along roadsides (Starr et al., 2003). As a landscape species, F. pumila is often planted by walls and other structures as an ornamental cover." https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/24162#3FB7F488-054B-4A15-9F19-873F5677AD06
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	#no data from this plants native range
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	No	"questionably killed after fire; pg 155" https://d-nb.info/1081085754/34 Kubiak, P. J. (2009). Fire responses of bushland plants after the January 1994 wildfires in northern Sydney. Cunninghamia, 11(1), 131-165. ----------

within approximately one year post fire)		"The species can be physically controlled by pruning to prevent the plant from maturing into a woody shrub or tree-like form. However, it is a vigorous climbing plant with adventitious roots and can spread vegetatively. For this reason, grazing and burning are not the most effective methods for such Ficus species (Starr et al., 2003; DiTomaso et al., 2013)." #this is for ficus generally https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/24162
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?)	Low	"listed as a plant for defensible space from fire" https://www.finegardening.com/article/firescaping-plants-help-protect-property-fire
Relative is flammable (Does a plant in the same genus meet the Reported Flammable criteria?)	Yes	"The ordinance permits the option for impermeable walls up to six feet in height as an alternative to increasingly popular but highly flammable ficus hedges. " https://messengermountainnews.com/the-sun-sets-for-malibus-palm-trees/

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 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) in November 2021. Data were prepared by Kevin Faccenda in 2020.

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