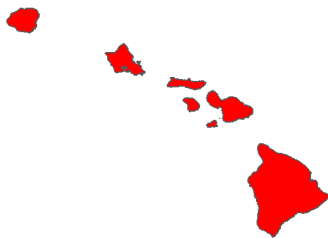


# Fire risk report for *Furcraea foetida*

<b>Full Species Name</b> <i>Furcraea foetida</i> (L.) Haw.
<b>Family:</b> Asparagaceae
<b>Common names:</b> Mauritius hemp
<b>Synonyms:</b>
Known occurrences (as of 2020) 
Year first documented as naturalized in Hawai'i: 1986
This species has been ranked by the Hawai'i Weed Risk Assessment program as High Risk with a score of 16.
<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 **0.11**.

This species was ranked by 49 managers on a scale of 'no risk', 'low risk', 'medium risk', or 'high risk'. The numerical score ranges from 0 to 1 with higher scores indicating more managers considered it a higher risk. A score of > .31 indicates high 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	Yes
Promoted by fire	No
Reported flammable*	Low
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?)	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	
Fire promoting plant in its introduced range (Same as Fire Promoting Native but within the species introduced range)	No	<p>"Further weedy characteristics are exhibited by <i>F. foetida</i>: its capacity to thrive in sun as well as partial shade, its nonsusceptibility to fire (plants singe rather than burn), and a variable phenology."</p> <p>Crouch, N. R., &amp; Smith, G. F. (2011). Agavaceae: <i>Furcraea foetida</i>: an invading alien in South Africa. <i>Bothalia</i>, 41(1): 196-199</p> <p>-----</p> <p>"The plants are not susceptible to fire, which does not move through concentrations of this plant."</p> <p>Smith, C.W. 1985. Impact of Alien Plants on Hawaii's Native Biota. Pp. 180-250 in Stone &amp; Scott (eds.). Hawaii's terrestrial ecosystems: preservation &amp; management. CPSU, Honolulu, HI</p>
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)	Yes	<p>"Further weedy characteristics are exhibited by <i>F. foetida</i>: its capacity to thrive in sun as well as partial shade, its nonsusceptibility to fire (plants singe rather than burn), and a variable phenology."</p> <p>Crouch, N. R., &amp; Smith, G. F. (2011). Agavaceae: <i>Furcraea foetida</i>: an invading alien in South Africa. <i>Bothalia</i>, 41(1): 196-199</p>

Promoted by fire (Does the plant increase in abundance after a fire?)	No	
Reported flammable (Is the species described as being flammable, being a major wildfire fuel, or high fire risk?)	Low	"Further weedy characteristics are exhibited by <i>F. foetida</i> : its capacity to thrive in sun as well as partial shade, its nonsusceptibility to fire (plants singe rather than burn), and a variable phenology." Crouch, N. R., & Smith, G. F. (2011). Agavaceae: <i>Furcraea foetida</i> : an invading alien in South Africa. <i>Bothalia</i> , 41(1): 196-199
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

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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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