


Fire risk report for *Lolium multiflorum*

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| Full Species Name <i>Lolium multiflorum</i> Lam. |
| Family: Poaceae |
| Common names: Italian ryegrass |
| Synonyms: |
| Known occurrences (as of 2020)  |
| Year first documented as naturalized in Hawai'i: 1909 |
| This species has been ranked by the Hawai'i Weed Risk Assessment program as High Risk with a score of 9. |
| View photos on Starr Environmental |
| View on Wikipedia |
| View occurrences on iNaturalist |
| View at Plants of Hawaii |
| View photos on Flickr |

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Lowest risk ⇔ Highest risk

This species is likely a **high** fire risk in Hawai'i with a fire risk score of **0.70**.

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* | Yes |
| Regenerates after fire | Yes |
| Promoted by fire | No |
| Reported flammable* | High |
| Relative is flammable* | No |

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

Detailed summary of Fire Ecology

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|---|---------|--|
| 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) | Yes | "An additional detrimental effect of postfire seeding is that dense stands of Italian ryegrass burn readily, and early recurring fire is destructive to regenerating shrubs [67]. " https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/graminoid/lolper/all.html#FIRE%20ECOLOGY |
| 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 | "Italian ryegrass generally decreases after fire. A California annual grassland site on the coastal foothills near Berkeley burned in July. Forbs generally increased and grasses decreased in the first growing season after the fire. Burned sites produced lower Italian ryegrass yields than unburned sites. Italian ryegrass height was significantly lower the year after the fire on burned sites than unburned sites [30]:" #regenerated, but weakly https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/graminoid/lolper/all.html#FIRE%20ECOLOGY |
| Promoted by fire (Does the plant increase in abundance after a fire?) | No | "Italian ryegrass generally decreases after fire. A California annual grassland site on the coastal foothills near Berkeley burned in July. Forbs generally increased and grasses decreased in the first growing season after the fire. Burned sites produced lower Italian ryegrass yields than unburned sites. Italian ryegrass height was significantly lower the year after the fire on burned sites than unburned sites [30]:" #regenerated, but weakly |

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| | | https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/graminoid/lolper/all.html#FIRE%20ECOLOGY |
| Reported flammable (Is the species described as being flammable, being a major wildfire fuel, or high fire risk?) | High | "Dense stands of dry Italian ryegrass burn readily [23,45]." https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/graminoid/lolper/all.html#FIRE%20ECOLOGY |
| 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 [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>

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

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