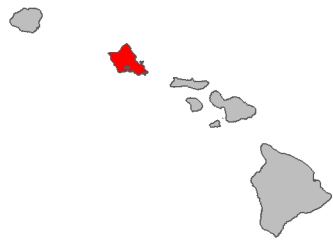


Fire risk report for *Pachira aquatica*

Full Species Name <i>Pachira aquatica</i> Aubl.
Family: Malvaceae
Common names: Guiana chestnut Malabar chestnut
Synonyms:
Known occurrences (as of 2020) 
Year first documented as naturalized in Hawai'i: 2011
This species has been ranked by the Hawai'i Weed Risk Assessment program as Low Risk with a score of -6.
View photos on Starr Environmental
View on Wikipedia
View occurrences on iNaturalist
View at Plants of Hawaii
View photos on Flickr

0 **I** .5 1
Lowest risk ⇔ Highest risk

This species is likely a **high** fire risk in Hawai'i with a fire risk score of **0.50**.

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	Fire-prone
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*	High
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?)	Fire-prone	<p>"[fires can occur with low to high frequency depending on the level of disturbance of the ecosystem; table 1]"... "s <i>Pachira aquatica</i> Aubl. (water zapote), which by its physiological and morphological characteristics could belong to the mangrove group, since they have the particularity of being floating trees that form a false forest floor with organic matter produced and retained (Infante Mata et al. 2011)"</p> <p>#not naturally fire prone. it seems that this ecosystem may not occur in hawaii as there are not too many wetlands.</p> <p>https://assets.researchsquare.com/files/rs-42037/v1/10db77b7-4bab-4d94-aa13-408c8e99f5e8.pdf</p> <p>RdJB, C., Mata, D. I., Garnica, J. G. F., Velázquez, J. R. T., Sánchez-Mejía, Z. M., Méndez, S. M., & Alvarado, C. M. (2020). Fuel beds variation of coastal tropical freshwater forested wetlands in three disturbance regimes at La Encrucijada, Biosphere Reserve, Mexico.</p>
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, reseeder, and recruiters which dispersed into the area)	no data	

within approximately one year post fire)		
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?)	High	<p>"Pachira aquatica Aubl. was the species with the highest importance value index, and contributes the most to the fuel beds.... Although TFFW remain ooded for most of the year, they are highly productive and store woody forest fuels (i.e. branches, twigs, logs, fallen trees) and litterfall accumulated. This latter is at different levels of decomposition on the soil surface (Sales et al. 2020). It's precisely in the dry seasons that these ecosystems can lead to combustion processes when the water level fades, the soil dries and all accumulated organic material is available to burn (Goldammer, 1999; Kaal et al. 2011). This explains why this ecosystem has presented res on a recurring basis, largely managed by the quality and quantity of woody fuel and litterfall."</p> <p>#litter is flammable rather than the tree itself.</p> <p>https://assets.researchsquare.com/files/rs-42037/v1/10db77b7-4bab-4d94-aa13-408c8e99f5e8.pdf</p> <p>RdJB, C., Mata, D. I., Garnica, J. G. F., Velázquez, J. R. T., Sánchez-Mejía, Z. M., Méndez, S. M., & Alvarado, C. M. (2020). Fuel beds variation of coastal tropical freshwater forested wetlands in three disturbance regimes at La Encrucijada, Biosphere Reserve, Mexico.</p>
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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