


## Fire risk report for *Ricinus communis*

<b>Full Species Name</b> <i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	<div> <div>0</div> <div></div> <div>.5</div> <div>1</div> </div> <div> <div>Lowest risk</div> <div>⇌</div> <div>Highest risk</div> </div>
<b>Family:</b> Euphorbiaceae	This species is likely a <b>low</b> fire risk in Hawai'i with a fire risk score of <b>0.14</b> .
<b>Common names:</b> castor bean castor oil plant	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.
<b>Synonyms:</b>	
Known occurrences (as of 2020) 	
Year first documented as naturalized in Hawai'i: 1864	
This species has been ranked by the Hawai'i Weed Risk Assessment program as High Risk with a score of 21.	
<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>	

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	Yes
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?)	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	
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	"[listed as mostly killed, but still regenerated]" Kubiak, P. J. (2009). Fire responses of bushland plants after the January 1994 wildfires in northern Sydney. <i>Cunninghamia</i> , 11, 131-165.
Promoted by fire (Does the plant increase in abundance after a fire?)	Yes	"Among the pioneer species that effectively began the colonization process of the area, <i>R. communis</i> and <i>T. micrantha</i> were outstanding for the number of individuals in the first surveys. The high density of these species in the colonization of degraded areas (fragment edges and burnt areas) has already been reported in other studies in semideciduous mesophytic forests of the region (Viana and Tabanez, 1996; Amador, 1999; Rozza and Rodrigues, 1999)."

		<a href="http://www.lerf.eco.br/img/publicacoes/2006_08%20Post%20fire%20regeneration%20in%20a%20semideciduous%20mesophytic%20forest%20South%20Eastern%20Brazil.pdf">http://www.lerf.eco.br/img/publicacoes/2006_08%20Post%20fire%20regeneration%20in%20a%20semideciduous%20mesophytic%20forest%20South%20Eastern%20Brazil.pdf</a> Rodrigues, R. R., Martins, S. V., & Matthes, L. H. F. (2005). Post-fire regeneration in a semideciduous mesophytic forest, south-eastern Brazil. New research on forest ecosystems, 1-citation_lastpage.
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	monotypic genus

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](mailto:faccenda@hawaii.edu)) in November 2021. Data were prepared by Kevin Faccenda in 2020.

This research was funded by the Department of the Interior Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center. The project described in this publication was supported by Grant or Cooperative Agreement No.G20AC00073 to Curt Daehler from the United States Geological Survey. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Geological Survey. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center or the National Climate Adaptation Science Center or the US Geological Survey.

