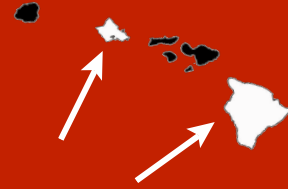




**BOLO**  
**Be On the**  
**Look Out!**

# *Imperata cylindrica* (Cogongrass)

Your kōkua is needed to prevent its spread and protect people and our native species.



## Facts:

- Considered a **highly flammable grass**
- **Quickly resprouts** after fire
- **Patches spread rapidly** through an underground network of stems
- Can grow from fragments
- **Seeds are typically wind-dispersed**
- Unpalatable to livestock and wildlife
- Named one of the 10 worst weeds in the world
- Federally regulated noxious invasive weed



## Distribution:

- Red-leaved cultivar was discovered in **Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu in 2007**
- **Green leaved form seen on Hawaiʻi Island in 2022**
- Outside Hawaiʻi it is common in horticultural trade and used for decoration

## Identification:

- **Other common names are Japanese blood grass and red baron grass**
- Can grow up to 4 feet tall
- Stems and leaves can be light green with a yellowish or reddish color
- Leaves are up to 1 inch wide
- **Has an off centered central leaf vein**
- Edge of the leaf is rough like sandpaper
- **Flowers are silvery white** and grow up to 8 inches in length
- **Seeds are silvery white, light and fluffy**



## How You Can Help:

- **Stay on marked trails**
- **Wash gear and boots before and after visiting at risk areas**, this will help prevent the spread of seeds
- **Report any sightings to the 643-Pest app** so *Imperata cylindrica* can be identified and removed
- Note where you found it and **take photos** if possible
- Do not attempt to pull it out, only report sightings
- Do not purchase or plant cogongrass cultivars



**REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES**  
**643-PEST**  
**643pest.org**  
 CALL OR CLICK TO PROTECT HAWAII

