

HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED



Fountain grass

a.k.a.
Pennisetum setaceum

Crime: Arson

Fountain grass is dangerous because it fuels brush fires and can easily sprout from seed after a fire. Many native plant species cannot survive fire. It's an invasive North African grass that grows quickly and out-competes other plants for water and space.

How to identify fountain grass

Growing in clumps, this ornamental grass can be up to three feet high. Pinkish bristly tufts of seeds and flowers can often be seen at the top of the plant. Fountain grass frequently grows by the side of the road or in lava fields in dry areas.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a community association or with the National Park Service to control fountain grass.
- ✓ **Don't harbor a fugitive!** If you have been in an area with fountain grass, clean your shoes with brushes, and remove seeds from packs and vehicles before visiting another area.
- ✓ **Alert a ranger** if you see fountain grass in the park.



Seed and
flower tufts



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED



Strawberry guava

a.k.a.
waiawī
Psidium cattleianum

Crime: Unlawful assembly

Where strawberry guava is most successful, it creates nearly impenetrable forest walls that prevent light from reaching the forest floor. Without sunlight, few other plants are able to grow. By growing and reproducing rapidly, this clustering Brazilian tree quickly takes over native forests.

How to identify strawberry guava

The smooth, aromatic bark is usually a patchy orange and copper color with glossy green and red leaves, and small white flowers. It produces golf ball-sized yellow or purple fruits which can often be seen scattered on the ground at the base of the tree.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a community association or the National Park Service to control strawberry guava.
- ✓ **Not in my backyard!** Remove it from your property.
- ✓ Educate yourself about this Hawaii-wide invader.



Dense stands
of strawberry
guava are
unfortunately
common



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES
NATIONAL PARK'S
LEAST WANTED



F. & K. Starr

Lantana

a.k.a.
lākana
Lantana camara

Crime: Violating parole

Lantana is a common escapee from private gardens and nurseries. From the West Indies comes this flowery shrub which forms dense understory thickets that inhibit the establishment of native species. It is capable of thriving in both moist and dry environments.

How to identify lantana

Growing from 2 –10 feet tall this thorny shrub produces many pink, orange, and yellow flowers on a single plant. On hot days lantana flowers emit a pungent odor. The fruits, which are poisonous when immature, are spread mostly by birds.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a community association or with the National Park Service to control lantana.
- ✓ **Don't harbor a fugitive!** If you have been in an area with lantana, check your shoes and remove any seeds before visiting another area.
- ✓ **Not in my backyard!** Remove it from your property.



Lantana
flowers



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES
NATIONAL PARK'S
LEAST WANTED



Kāhili ginger

a.k.a.
'awapuhi kāhili
Hedychium gardnerianum

Crime: Bullying

Kāhili ginger forms thickets which aggressively shade out native tree seedlings and ground cover. Originally from India, this rain forest species spreads rapidly by creeping roots and through seed dispersal by birds.

How to identify kāhili ginger

Large, glossy, dark-green leaves grow up from a fleshy, fragrant root called a rhizome. It often occurs in thick patches. The plants can grow up to four feet tall and produce a large yellow flower and red seeds in the summertime. The flowers emit a strong sickly-sweet scent.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with the National Park Service to control kāhili ginger.
- ✓ **Not in my backyard!** Remove it from your property.
- ✓ Use caution when selecting ornamental plants. This introduced ginger now covers over 10,000 acres in the park.



Kāhili
ginger
flower



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES
NATIONAL PARK'S
LEAST WANTED



Yellow Himalayan
raspberry

a.k.a.
Rubus ellipticus

Crime: Stalking

Himalayan raspberry is a brambly plant that forms dense, impenetrable thickets which exclude native plant species.

How to identify Himalayan raspberry

Hardly fit for jam-making, this raspberry has round, fuzzy, light green leaves on stout thorny stems. Fruits are small and yellow and the flowers are white. Himalayan raspberry grows in a seemingly random fashion on hearty stalks, often with branches parallel to the ground. It is typically found from 2000 to 5000 feet in elevation.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a community association or with the National Park Service to control raspberry and blackberry.
- ✓ **Don't harbor a fugitive!** If you have been in an area with Himalayan raspberry, clean your shoes with brushes, and remove seeds from packs and vehicles before visiting another area.



Yellow
Himalayan
raspberry
leaves



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES
NATIONAL PARK'S
LEAST WANTED



Faya tree

a.k.a.
firetree
firebush
Morella faya

Crime: Nitrogen fixing

From islands off the northwest coast of Africa comes this tree which increases nitrogen levels in the soil and dramatically changes vegetation development in invaded areas. Thus, faya eventually displaces native species. It easily invades native 'ōhi'a forest by forming single-species stands.

How to identify faya

Depending on the habitat, faya trees can grow as a multi-trunked shrub in dryer areas to an 'ōhi'a-sized single-trunked tree in dense forests. Faya leaves are dark green, shiny, abundant, and fairly small. The tree is commonly seen in the park between the 2,000 to 4,000 feet elevations. Its small but numerous red fruits are spread by birds.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with the National Park Service to control faya.
- ✓ **Don't harbor a fugitive!** If you have been in an area with faya trees, check your shoes, packs, and vehicles and remove any seeds before visiting another area.



Faya
tree
leaves



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED



Tibouchina

a.k.a.
cane tibouchina (*Tibouchina herbacea*)
glory bush (*Tibouchina urvilleana*)

Crime: Trespassing

Several species of these South American plants have been used in Hawaii landscaping and have since spread out of control throughout native forests. Tibouchina forms single species thickets that outcompete and displace native plants.

How to identify tibouchina

All varieties of this bush produce many pink or violet-colored flowers. Cane tibouchina grows in clusters of tall stalks whereas glory bush forms dense thickets of woody stems. The leaves have four parallel veins running lengthwise to the tip.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a community association or with the National Park Service to control tibouchina.
- ✓ **Don't harbor a fugitive!** If you have been in an area with tibouchina, check your shoes and remove any seeds before visiting another area.



Glory
bush
flower



Cane tibouchina on front

HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED



Banana poka

a.k.a.
banana passionfruit
bananadilla
Passiflora tarminiana

Crime: Impersonating a banana

Emerging from the Andean highlands, this climbing vine smothers and shades out its host plant, and covers potential habitat for native species. Banana poka is commonly found in otherwise healthy native rain forests.

How to identify banana poka

Banana poka has finely-toothed green leaves, large star-like pink flowers, and yellow or green banana-shaped fruits. The vine can be found growing in the tree canopy or directly on the ground.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a community association or the National Park Service to control banana poka.
- ✓ **Not in my backyard!** Remove it from your property.
- ✓ Be aware of statewide banana poka quarantine areas.



Banana
poka
fruits



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED



Ēkoa

a.k.a.
koa haole
lilikoa
Leucaena leucocephala

Crime: Failure to yield

Ēkoa spreads very quickly across older lava fields and in dry habitats. Introduced as a fodder for cattle, this scrawny tropical American plant is an incredible seed producer, highly adapted to dry environments.

How to identify Ēkoa

Growing either as a small woody-stemmed tree or a shrub, Ēkoa produces long seed pods that are green when immature and brown when fully ripe. The flowers are small, tan to white in color, and are clustered in a pom-pom shape.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a community association or with the National Park Service to control Ēkoa.



Ēkoa
seed pods
and flowers



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED



Christmas berry

a.k.a.
Brazilian pepper
nani-o-Hilo
wilelaiki
Schinus terebinthifolius

Crime: Negligent herbicide

Christmas berry is a South American evergreen tree which aggressively spreads, shades out native vegetation, and releases chemicals that may inhibit the growth of surrounding vegetation. It is one of the most invasive weeds in the Kahuku area of the park.

How to identify Christmas berry

Forming tangled clumps, this shrubby plant has small compound leaves and little white flowers that turn into shiny red berries. When broken, the leaves have a distinct turpentine odor.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a community association or the National Park Service to control Christmas berry.
- ✓ **Not in my backyard!** Remove it from your property.

Christmas
berry
produces
many
bright
red fruits



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED



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Argentine ant

a.k.a.
sugar ant
Linepithema humile

Crime: Breaking and entering

Argentine ants invade both human structures and native habitat. These ants are voracious predators of other insects including rare native species and important prey species for birds. They are responsible for disrupting ecosystem processes, such as pollination and nutrient cycling, by preying upon insects.

How to identify Argentine ants

First reported in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park in 1967, this small blackish-brown ant is considered by many to be the world's worst ant pest. Argentine ants prefer an elevation range of 4,200 to 8,000 feet.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Don't harbor a fugitive!** If you have been in an area with Argentine ants, check your gear and under your car, and remove any ants before visiting another area.
- ✓ **Alert a ranger** if you see Argentine ants in Kahuku. It is vital to the native bird communities that these ants stay out of that area of the park.



Argentine
ant mug
shot



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HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED

Spedes on the loose!
The park needs your help!



Coqui frog

a.k.a.
Eleutherodactylus coqui

Crime: Disturbing the peace

In Hawaii, these Caribbean frogs have no natural predators or competitors which creates conditions for populations to reach up to several thousand per acre. Collectively, they eat huge amounts of insects which is known to disturb the balance of native ecosystems. Moreover, the males emit a loud, high-pitched, two-note "co-kee" noise from dusk until dawn.

How to identify coqui frogs

Easily identified, this small frog is brown to grey-brown in color with a thin tan stripe down the middle of its back. It thrives in moist and thickly vegetated areas up to 3,900 feet in elevation.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a community association to control coqui.
- ✓ If you live near the park, call a coqui hotline if you hear one on your property. It is illegal to keep them as pets.
- ✓ **Alert a ranger** if you see or hear coqui frogs in the park.
- ✓ **Don't harbor a fugitive!** If you have been in an area with coqui frogs, check under your car and remove any frogs before visiting another area.



Smaller
and lighter
colored male
coqui frog



D. Boyle

HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED

Spedes on the loose!
The park needs your help!



F. & K. Starr

Koster's curse

a.k.a.
soap bush
Clidemia hirta

Crime: Public profanity

An aggressive vine-like shrub, Koster's curse spreads very quickly and can completely overtake forest understory or pasture lands by shading out its competition. Widespread throughout the American tropics, this plant is believed to be spread in Hawaii by non-native birds and rapidly repopulates areas struck by fire.

How to identify Koster's curse

Koster's curse is a branched shrub (2 to 9 feet tall) which produces white flowers and small black berries. Covered with tiny hairs, the leaves are dark green with four distinct parallel veins and a checkered appearance.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Don't harbor a fugitive!** If you have been in an area with Koster's curse, clean your shoes and gear to remove any seeds before visiting another area.
- ✓ **Alert a ranger** if you see Koster's curse anywhere in the park.



White
Koster's
curse
flower



F. & K. Starr

HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED

Spedes on the loose!
The park needs your help!



Australian tree fern

a.k.a.
Sphaeropteris cooperi

Crime: Loitering

A fast-grower like the Australian tree fern can displace native tree ferns by producing millions of spores and quickly dominating a habitat. Native species compete for the same limited resources as this fern which effects the whole watershed.

How to identify the Australian tree fern

Towering up to 40 feet tall with 20 feet long fronds makes this fern a substantial presence in the forest. It is distinguishable from the native hāpu'u fern in that it lacks soft brown fibers (pulu) at the base of the fronds, and its fronds are not as full in appearance as the hāpu'u. The stems are also much hairier and there are light-brown scales where the fronds meet the stems.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Alert a ranger** if you see an Australian tree fern in the park (be sure that it is not a native hāpu'u fern).
- ✓ **Not in my backyard!** Remove it from your property.



Australian
tree fern
frond



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED

Spedes on the loose!
The park needs your help!



F. & K. Starr

Gorse

a.k.a.
Ulex europaeus

Crime: Assault with a prickly weapon

Gorse is a mid-sized Western European shrub with very sharp spines as leaves. It is known to form dense thickets on the sides of mountains at various elevations and it outcompetes native vegetation. Once a thicket forms it is nearly impossible for animals or people to pass through it.

How to identify gorse

Gorse can reach up to 15 feet in height, has small yellow flowers, and tends to grow in highly disturbed areas like cattle pastures.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Don't harbor a fugitive!** If you have been in an area with gorse, clean your shoes and gear to remove any seeds before visiting another area.
- ✓ **Alert a ranger** if you see gorse anywhere in the park.



Yellow gorse flower

F. & K. Starr



HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S LEAST WANTED

Spedes on the loose!
The park needs your help!



F. & K. Starr

Miconia

a.k.a.
purple plague
velvetleaf
Miconia calvenscens

Crime: Forming a monopoly

Originating in South and Central America, this tree with extra large leaves aggressively shades out its competition. Miconia seedlings can grow in deep shade whereas most native species cannot. Miconia was introduced to Tahiti 70 years ago and now covers a majority of that island at a devastating cost to native flora. Without action, Hawaii may suffer the same fate.

How to identify miconia

Miconia is a slender broad-leafed tree that can grow up to 45 feet tall although it is usually found to be much shorter. Its football-sized leaves have a very distinct pattern, and are noticeably dark green on the top and purple on the underside.

Be a crime fighter

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a community association or the National Park Service to control miconia.
- ✓ **Alert a ranger** if you see miconia in or even near the park.
- ✓ **Not in my backyard!** Remove it from your property.



Miconia leaves are purple on the underside

F. & K. Starr

