

Pittosporum viridiflorum

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Rosales	Pittosporaceae

Common name cape cheesewood (English), cape pittosporum (English), spoor (English, St. Helena)

Synonym

Similar species

Summary

Pittosporum viridiflorum is a shrub/tree that has become naturalised in Hawaii and Saint Helena. Originally cultivated in Europe as early as the 17th Century, the Dutch took the species to Saint Helena where it has now naturalised as an early coloniser in the currently regenerating shrubland. In Hawaii, *P. viridiflorum* is typically found at altitudes less than 1000m at forest edges and abandoned pasture.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Species Description

Pittosporum viridiflorum is described by Wagner *et al* (1999; as seen in PIER, 2006) as a small tree 3-6 m tall with its young parts and inflorescences sparsely puberulent; branches glabrous. It has leathery leaves, 6-15 cm long, 2.2-4 cm wide, glabrous, with margins minutely revolute; the apex bluntly acuminate to rounded; the base attenuate and the petioles 0.6-1.5 cm long. *P. viridiflorum*'s flowers are perfect, numerous in terminal, branched, have corymbose inflorescences with peduncles 0-8 mm long, its pedicels slender and 5-7 mm long. The sepals are elliptic and around 1.5 mm long, margins scarious. The petals are yellowish green, 5-6 mm long, with margins slightly revolute and erose. Its capsules are depressed-subglobose, slightly compressed and 4-5 mm long, with the valves having thin exocarp and the surface minutely rugulose. The seeds occur in 4-6, are reddish black, subreniform, are somewhat compressed, and are around 3.5-4 mm long.

Uses

Used as an ornamental in Hawaii (Starr *et al*, 2003). Its stem and bark have also been used medicinally (Matshinyalo & Reynolds, 2002, as seen in Starr *et al*, 2003).

Habitat Description

In Hawaii, *Pittosporum viridiflorum* is cultivated, but has also naturalised sparingly at around 1000m altitude (PIER, 2006). In its native range, *P. viridiflorum* tolerates a wide range of elevations and grows in tall forests, in shrub of forest margins and on stream banks (Matshinyalo & Reynolds, 2002; as seen in Starr *et al*, 2003).

Management Info

Preventative measures: A Risk Assessment of *Pittosporum viridiflorum* for Hawai'i and other Pacific islands was prepared by Dr. Curtis Daehler (UH Botany) with funding from the Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program and US Forest Service. The alien plant screening system is derived from Pheloung *et al.* (1999) with minor modifications for use in Pacific islands (Daehler *et al.* 2004). The result is a score of 3 and a recommendation of: "the plant requires further evaluation."

Physical: Seedlings of *P. viridiflorum* could be pulled by hand. Small trees could also be dug out. Cutting without herbicide treatment may result in re-growth (Starr *et al.*, 2003)

Chemical: Cut stump, and basal bark methods employing herbicides are likely effective means of control for *P. viridiflorum* (Starr *et al.*, 2003).

Pathway

Pittosporum viridiflorum is spread long distances by humans who use the species in landscaping (Starr *et al.*, 2003)

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

Review:

Publication date: 2005-01-24

ALIEN RANGE

[1] SAINT HELENA

[5] UNITED STATES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

12 references found for ***Pittosporum viridiflorum***

Management information

[IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group \(ISSG\), 2010. A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers.](#)

Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

[Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk \(PIER\), 2005. Risk Assessment: *Pittosporum viridiflorum* Sims, Pittosporaceae](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/wra/pacific/pittosporum_viridiflorum_htmlwra.htm [Accessed June 22 2010]

[Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk \(PIER\), 2006. *Pittosporum viridiflorum* Sims, Pittosporaceae](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/species/pittosporum_viridiflorum.htm [Accessed June 22 2010]

[Starr, Forest; Kim Starr and Lloyd Loope, 2003. *Pittosporum viridiflorum* Cape pittosporum Pittosporaceae](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/starr/hiplants/reports/pdf/pittosporum_viridiflorum.pdf [Accessed June 22 2010]

General information

[Global Compendium of Weeds \(GCW\), 2007. *Pittosporum viridiflorum* \(Pittosporaceae\)](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/gcw/species/pittosporum_viridiflorum/ [Accessed June 22 2010]

[Integrated Taxonomic Information System \(ITIS\), 2010. *Pittosporum viridiflorum* Sims](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=504429 [Accessed June 22 2010]

[McGinley, Mark, 2008. St. Helena scrub and woodlands. The Encyclopedia of Earth](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.eoearth.org/article/St._Helena_scrub_and_woodlands [Accessed June 22 2010]

[Starr, Forest; Kim Martz and Lloyd L. Loope, 1999. New Plant Records from East Maui for 1998. United States Geological Survey - Biological Resources Division](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/starr/publications/new_plant_records_1999.pdf [Accessed June 22 2010]

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Summary: Available from: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?28758> [Accessed June 22 2010]

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Summary: Available from: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=PIV15> [Accessed June 22 2010]

Varnham, K. 2005 (updated 2009). Non-native species in UK Overseas Territories: a review.

Wagner, W.L., D.R. Herbst, & S.H. Sohmer. 1990. Manual of the flowering plants of Hawaii. 2 vols. Univ. of Hawaii Press & Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu. 1,853 p.

Summary: Available from: http://hear.org/starr/publications/1999_new_plant_records_east_maui-op59-1.pdf [Accessed 22 June 2010]