

Canna indica  [简体中文](#) [正體中文](#)

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Liliopsida	Zingiberales	Cannaceae

Common name

gasau ni ga (English, Fiji), balisier rouge (French), pia renga (English, Cook Islands (Aitutaki)), African arrowroot (English), fagafaga (English, Futuna), bakare kare (Hausa, Nigeria), gwangwa (English), bakalele (Hausa, Nigeria), Queensland arrowroot (English, South America), achira (English, Andes), nuaenga (English, Cook Islands), gwangwaama (English), toolima (South American Creole), apeellap (English, Puluwat), luiuenwai (English, Pohnpei), fagamanu (English, American Samoa & Samoa), English shot (English, South America), chupa flor (Spanish), riti (English, Kiribati), mongos halum-tano (English, Guam), oruuru (English, Puluwat), calenda (English, South America), te misimisi (English, Tonga), canna lily (English), canna (English), poloke (English, Hawaii), Fanamanu (English, Samoa), fa'i masoa (English, American Samoa & Samoa), pia-raroto'a (English, French Polynesia), tous-les-mois (French), Indian shot (English), Balisier comestible (French), poloka (English, Hawaii), ali'ipoe, li'ipoe (English, Hawaii), tiare papa'a (English, Cook Islands (Mangaia))

Synonym

Canna edulis , Ker-Gawl.
Canna bifida , Schult.
Canna floribunda , Bouché
Canna fulgida , Bouché
Canna fulgida , Bouché
Canna heliconiifolia , Bouché
Canna formosa , Bouché
Canna humilis , Bouché
Canna exigua , Bouché
Canna densifolia , Bouché
Canna ehrenbergii , Bouché
Canna commutata , Bouché
Canna compacta , Bouché
Canna cinnabarina , Bouché
Canna aurantiaca , Roscoe
Canna aureovittata , Lodd.
Canna bidentata , Bertol.
Canna carnea , Roscoe
Canna cearensis , Huber
Canna chinensis , Willd.
Canna coccinea , Link
Canna coccinea , Mill.
Canna coccinea , Mill.var. *sylvestris*(Roscoe) Regel
Canna coccinea , Mill.var. *bicolor*Kraenzl
Canna compacta , Roscoe
Canna crocea , Roem. & Schult.
Canna crocea , Lag. ex Rchb.
Canna discolor , Lindl.
Canna ellipticifolia , Stokes
Canna edulis , KerGawl.
Canna esculenta , Lodd. ex Loudon
Canna flavescens , Link
Canna indica , L.var. *nepalensis*(Bouché) Hook.f.
Canna lutea , Mill.var. *genuina* Kraenzl.
Canna lutea , Mill.
Canna lutea , Mill. var. *aurantiaca* (Roscoe) Regel
Canna limbata , Roscoe
Canna lanuginosa , Roscoe
Canna lambertii , Lindl.
Canna lagunensis , Lindl.
Canna indica , L.var. *limbata*(Roscoe) Petersen
Canna laeta , Bouché
Canna leptochila , Bouché
Canna indica , L.var. *maculata*Hook.
Canna indica , L.var. *speciosa* (Roscoe) Hook.f.
Canna indica , L.var. *patens* Aiton
Canna indica , L.var. *coccinea*(Mill.) Aiton
Canna indica , L.var. *edwardsii*Regel
Canna lutea , Mill.var. *pallida*(Roscoe) Regel
Canna barbadica , Bouché
Canna achiras , Gillies
Canna heliconiifolia , Bouché var. *xalapensis*(Bouché) Kraenzl
Canna indica , L.var. *rubra* Aiton

Similar species

Summary

Canna indica is a native of tropical America and is a very popular ornamental plant throughout the tropical world. This plant has become an invasive in Pitcairn and in New Zealand, where it grows in thickets, crowding out other plants. It is spread by rhizomes making it difficult to remove.



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

Species Description

Canna indica is an upright perennial rhizomatous herb (Foxcroft and Richardson, 2003). It is "not usually over 5 ft high; leaves rather fleshy, with thin margins, usually not more than 1 ft. long and half as broad, lanceolate to sub-orbicular, veins arching-parallel. Flowers red, yellow or variegated, showy, the staminodia black, capsular, nearly globose, enclosing a variable number of round, shiny black seeds" (Stone, 1970. In PIER, 2003).

Notes

There are cultivated hybrids of *C. indica*. There are ten species of *Canna* to be found in the neotropics (Hiltje Maas., pers.comm., 2005).

Uses

The plant is used in traditional medicine and the rhizome is used in traditional foods. Seeds are used in jewellery making and the fibre from the leaves is used to make paper. Seeds may have been used in flintlock muskets when lead shot wasn't available. The small BB-like seeds of Indian shot are commonly used in seed bracelets and gold earrings also. (Wayne's Word, 1998)

Habitat Description

In Hawai'i, "naturalised primarily in disturbed mesic to wet forest, 10-610m" (Wagner *et al.* 1999. In PIER, 2003). In Fiji, "this distinctive plant is naturalised and often frequent around villages, along roadsides, in coconut plantations, in clearings, and in forest near streams, at elevations from near sea level to 450 m" (Smith, 1979. In PIER, 2003).

Reproduction

Propagates by seed and rhizomes, (PIER, 2003).

General Impacts

Grows in thickets, crowding out other plants. It is difficult to remove due to its spread by rhizomes (PIER, 2003).

Pathway

Cannas are popular cultivated flowers in tropical and temperate gardens. (Wayne's Word, 1998)

Principal source: [Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk, \(PIER\), 2004. *Canna indica*](#)

Compiler: IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

Review: Dr. Hitje Mass. Herbarium Division \ Department of Plant Ecology and Evolutionary Biology \ University of Utrecht. The Netherlands.

Publication date: 2006-04-11

ALIEN RANGE

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2026. Species profile *Canna indica*. Available from: <https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=640> [Accessed 24 June 2026]

[4] AMERICAN SAMOA	[1] ATLANTIC - WESTERN CENTRAL
[4] AUSTRALIA	[1] BERMUDA
[6] COOK ISLANDS	[9] FIJI
[3] FRENCH POLYNESIA	[1] GEORGIA
[1] GUAM	[1] IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
[2] KIRIBATI	[1] LESSER ANTILLES
[3] MARSHALL ISLANDS	[1] MEXICO
[9] MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF	[1] NETHERLANDS
[1] NEW CALEDONIA	[1] NEW ZEALAND
[1] NIUE	[1] NORFOLK ISLAND
[2] NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	[7] PALAU
[1] PITCAIRN	[1] PUERTO RICO
[1] REUNION	[2] SAINT HELENA
[2] SAMOA	[1] SOLOMON ISLANDS
[2] SOUTH AFRICA	[1] SWAZILAND
[6] TONGA	[1] TUVALU
[9] UNITED STATES	[1] VANUATU
[1] VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S.	[1] WALLIS AND FUTUNA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

24 references found for *Canna indica*

Management information

[European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization \(EPPO\), 2006. Guidelines for the management of invasive alien plants or potentially invasive alien plants which are intended for import or have been intentionally imported. EPPO Bulletin 36 \(3\), 417-418.](#)
[PIER \(Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk\), 2002. *Canna indica*](#)

Summary: Ecology, synonyms, common names, distributions (Pacific as well as global), management and impact information.
 Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/species/canna_indica.htm [Accessed 23 June 2003]

Swaziland s Alien Plants Database., Undated. *Canna indica*

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[Varnham, K. 2006. Non-native species in UK Overseas Territories: a review. JNCC Report 372. Peterborough: United Kingdom.](#)

Summary: This database compiles information on alien species from British Overseas Territories.

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General information

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Summary: This draft paper gives the Hausa names for plants and trees.

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[Conservatoire Botanique National De Mascarin \(BOULLET V. coord.\) 2007. - *Canna indica* Index de la flore vasculaire de la Réunion \(Trachophytes\) : statuts, menaces et protections. - Version 2007.1](#)

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Summary: This report gives information about plants of the Guianas and their introduction to Europe.

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Summary: This paper gives information about edible plants in Mexico and Argentina.

[Florence J., Chevillotte H., Ollier C. & Meyer J.-Y. 2007. *Canna indica* Base de données botaniques Nadeaud de l'Herbier de la Polynésie française \(PAP\).](#)

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Summary: This paper gives details about the invasive plant species in the Kruger National Park.

Groves, R.H. (Convenor), Hosking, J.R., Batianoff, G.N., Cooke, D.A., Cowie, I.D., Johnson, R.W., Keighery, G.J., Lepschi, B.J., Mitchell, A.A., Moerkerk, M., Randall, R.P., Rozefelds, A.C., Walsh N.G., and Waterhouse, B.M. 2003. Weed categories for natural and agricultural ecosystem management. Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra.

Summary: This document gives the status of all weed species found in Australia.

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2026. Species profile *Canna indica*. Available from:

<https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=640> [Accessed 24 June 2026]



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Canna indica*

[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2004. Online Database *Canna indica*](#)

Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.

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Summary: Cet ouvrage liste 1412 taxons (espèces, sous espèces et variétés) introduits en Nouvelle-Calédonie. L'auteur précise dans la majorité des cas si l'espèce est cultivée ou naturalisée.

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Summary: Resource that includes the distribution of invasive species throughout the Pacific Islands.

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[Wayne s Word, 1998. *Canna indica*: Indian Shot. A Newsletter Of Natural History Trivia.](#)

Summary: Interesting general and historical information on the Indian Shot.

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Summary: Synonyms.