

Medinilla

Medinilla cummingi, *magnifica*

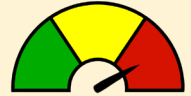


**Do not
plant this
in your yard!**



Medinilla is a native of the Philippines. This plant has spread from landscaping in the last 15 years and has begun invading backyards and forests in East Hawai'i.

Medinilla is closely related to miconia, clidemia (Koster's curse), and tibouchina, all notorious invaders of Hawaii's landscapes which cause significant damage.



High Risk

Description:

A large shrub that can grow up to 9 feet tall, and can establish as an epiphyte on other trees.

Flower:

Small pink or red flowers with 5 petals. Flowers grow in drooping clustered panicles (up to 18 inches long).

Leaves:

Leaves are thick and waxy, with prominent long veins characteristic of the Melastome family.

Fruit:

Small pink, purple, or black berries. The small fruit is eaten by birds, containing many dozens of small seeds per fruit.

Impacts and Harm:

Like its invasive cousins in the Melastome family, medinilla is shade-tolerant and can grow easily in native forest, quickly taking over and forming impenetrable thickets where no other vegetation can grow. Birds eat the berries and spread it far from original planting.

Plant this instead:



Ashanti blood (Mussaenda erythrophylla)