STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

Fountain grass

Maui County Priority Pest for Maui, Lanai, and Molokai:

Fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) is a perennial, clumping grass that can grow in a variety of habitats, from bare lava, to rangemand, to urban roadsides. This grass is adapted to fire; its dried leaves tend to increase the intensity of wild fires, then it resprouts faster than native plants.

Identification

Height- up to 0.2-1 m (1/2-3 ft)
Leaves- Dense clumps; leaves are generally green in the winter and dry brown in the summer
Flower- Bristly purple or rose-colored; 10-25 cm (4-10 in long)
Seeds- Green with brown or purple spots in pods 5-20 cm (2-8 in) long

Dense clumps

A single plant found in Kahului, Maui

Flower detail

Don't mistake fountain grass for these look-alikes:

Red fountain grass (*Pennisetum macrostachyum*) has similar nodding, long seed heads to fountain grass, but can be differentiated by red or purple tinted foliage and seed heads. Red fountain grass also grows much taller (1.8-2.4 m or 6-8 ft).

Feathertop (*Pennesetum villosum*) is another perinneal, clumping grass with a similar growth structure and leaves to fountain grass. Feathertop produces distinctive feathery seed heads that can grow up to 90 cm (35 in) in length.

Report online: www.reportapest.org
Call in a report
Maui/Lanai: 573-6471 Molokai: 553-5236

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