

Malvastrum coromandelianum

False mallow

Malvastrum coromandelianum (L.) Garke

Family: Malvaceae

Description: Tough shrub, 3 ft tall, often much shorter, reddish stems, hairy. Leaves ovate to narrow, 2 inches long, veins prominently deep set, margins serrate. Orange flowers, 0.33 inches diameter, 1–3 at axils and several in terminal clusters. Fruit a dry “cheesewheel,” 8–12 sections, each with 1 seed. *Malvastrum*, resembles the genus *Malva*; *coromandelianum*, of Coromandel, India^(5, 70).

Distribution: Origin uncertain, a pantropical weed. A weed in wet-mesic lowland pastures and non-cropland, occurs on all the main Hawaiian islands and Midway⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Replaces overgrazed forage species.



Management: Tolerant of herbicides. May require application of triclopyr in an oil carrier. Even goats and sheep don't seem to relish false mallow⁽⁵⁹⁾.