

Acacia confusa

Formosan koa

Acacia confusa Merr.

Family: Fabaceae

Description: Tall tree, to 50 ft, branched, resembles the native *Acacia koa*, to which it is closely related. Leaves are somewhat sickle-shaped modified petioles (phylloides), narrow, 4 inches long by 0.3 inches wide. Flower heads spherical, 0.5 inches diameter, yellow, fragrant. Pods dark, flat, 4 inches long by 0.4 inches wide. Seeds round, flat, 0.2 inches diameter. A popular ornamental, it spreads by seeds. *Acacia* is derived from the Greek *akia* meaning sharp point in reference to thorns on a related species⁽⁷⁰⁾; *confusa* meaning confused or uncertain⁽⁶⁹⁾, or readily confused for another species⁽¹⁹⁾.

Distribution: From Taiwan and the Philippines, introduced into Hawai'i by the Board of Agriculture and Forestry and the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association about 1915⁽⁷⁰⁾. Commonly used in landscaping including State facilities such as schools and airports. Occurs on all islands except Ni'ihau in mesic to humid areas in pastures and forests.

Environmental impact: Prolific seeder. Forms monotypic stands in pastures and disturbed sites in forests; eliminates ground cover.

Management: Saplings sensitive to foliar application of 2,4-D at 1 lb/acre and of triclopyr at 1 lb/acre in a trial at Wailua, Kaua'i. Triclopyr at 2 lb/acre provided 80% control but 2,4-D at 2 lb/acre caused moderate in-



jury and metsulfuron at 0.4 oz/acre was ineffective at Kala'e, Moloka'i. Somewhat tolerant of dicamba. Sensitive to cut-surface applications of 2,4-D, dicamba, glyphosate, picloram⁽⁴⁵⁾, and triclopyr in trials at Wailua, Kaua'i. However, in trials at Kala'e, Moloka'i, results were less impressive, with cut-surface applications of picloram and dicamba providing serious but not lethal injury and glyphosate and 2,4-D providing moderate injury. Sensitive to very-low-volume basal bark application of 20% triclopyr in oil. Staff at the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park found triclopyr ester at 5% of product in diesel oil applied to the basal bark effective (Chris Zimmer, HAVO). Tolerant of tebuthiuron pellets.