

# Grevillea banksii

## Kahili flower tree

*Grevillea banksii* R. Br.

Family: Proteaceae

**Description:** Tree to 25 ft tall. Leaves simple, deeply and narrowly lobed, smooth above, hairy brown beneath. Flowers red in terminal, erect clusters. Often used as an ornamental and in making hat *lei*. Fruits are dry gray pods (follicles) with a long hair-like appendage at the end, split along one side. Genus named after 18<sup>th</sup> century English horticulturist C.F. Greveille<sup>(70)</sup>; *banksii*, after Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820), botanist on Captain James Cook’s first voyage of discovery<sup>(32)</sup>.

**Distribution:** Native to Australia. First collected on Hawai‘i in 1909. Moist to wet areas on all the major islands except Lana‘i<sup>(70)</sup>.

**Environmental impact:** Infests pastures and natural areas in mesic areas. Fruit and ovaries may cause dermatitis and pollen may trigger hay fever; foliage poisonous to horses<sup>(59)</sup>.



**Management:** Susceptible to triclopyr ester (2.5% product in diesel) applied to frill cuts<sup>(66)</sup>, although the oil should not be necessary if the stem is frilled. Saplings sensitive to cut-surface application of glyphosate and triclopyr. Larger trees may require end-to-end notches or drilling to achieve an adequate dose.