

Jasminum fluminense

Brazilian jasmine

Jasminum fluminense Vell.

Family: Oleaceae

Description: A woody sprawling plant with trifoliate compound leaves, grayish green. Leaflets ovate, middle leaflet larger, 1.5 inches long by 1 inch wide. Stems and midrib of leaflets hairy. Flowers year round. In Florida, flowering peaks in spring and summer. Flowers white, 0.5 inches diameter, 8 petals, fragrant, clustered. Fruits spheroid berries, 0.25 inches diameter, fleshy, black, single seed 0.12 inches wide by 0.18 inches long⁽⁶³⁾. *Jasminum*, jasmine, from the Persian name Yasmin⁽¹⁹⁾; *fluminense*, of Rio de Janeiro⁽⁵⁹⁾ or rivers in general⁽¹⁹⁾.

Distribution: Originally from Africa, it was brought to Brazil by early Portuguese explorers. It was introduced from there into Florida in 1923 and is now a forest pest in south Florida⁽⁶³⁾. On Hawai‘i, the only known infestation is along Ho‘okena Beach Road, south Kona, a dry area, where it covers all other vegetation almost completely over several acres. Recently reported on Oahu and in East Maui.



Environmental impact: Brazilian jasmine enshrouds all other vegetation, including at least small trees. In Florida, seed is spread by raccoons and birds⁽⁶³⁾. Although it was discovered at Ho‘okena in the 1970s⁽⁷⁰⁾, it apparently has not spread to discontinuous sites.

Management: Sensitive to triclopyr, 50% of product, in cut-surface stump treatment⁽⁶³⁾.