

Juncus effusus

Japanese mat rush

Juncus effusus L.

Family: Juncaceae

Description: Perennial herb with thick rhizomes and roots, stems crowded along rhizomes, reddish brown to purple at base, striate, 3-angled, 4 ft long. Leaves are basal scales, bladeless. Sheath dark reddish brown to purple at base, pale at top. Flowers many in tight or open lateral inflorescences, 3 inches long. [A close relative, *Juncus planifolius*, is a perennial herb, stems to 12 ft tall, dense low tufts. Leaves many, basal, much shorter than stems, flat. Margins of sheath translucent. Inflorescence terminal on stems, 2 to many on branches of floral stems. Native to South America, New Zealand, and Australia. Naturalized in Europe. Occurs in wet depressions in bogs and forest edges at 2500–4000 ft on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i⁽⁷⁰⁾.] *Juncus* may have been derived from the Latin *jungere*, to bind, because the stems have been used for binding; *effusus*, very loose, spreading; *plainifolius*, flat leaved^(5, 59, 70).

Distribution: Widely distributed in temperate zones of both hemispheres. Introduced into Hawai‘i about 1900 in a failed attempt to produce matting. Occurs along ponds and streams, open bogs, and wet areas along trails at 3000–6000 ft elevation on Moloka‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i⁽⁷⁰⁾.



Environmental impact: Displaces natives in wet forests and bogs.

Management: Difficult because of thick rhizomes and roots. Susceptible to glyphosate at 1–1.5% product applied to foliage (Hank Oppenheimer, Maui Pine).