

Prosopis juliflora

Mesquite

Prosopis juliflora (Sw.) DC

Family: Fabaceae

Description: Large sprawling shrub, armed with woody spines to 3 inches long. Leaves twice compound, more or less 2 pairs of pinnae, each with 12–25 pairs of leaflets 0.6 inches long by 0.1 inches wide. Inflorescences 4 inches long, cylindrical, pendant, yellow. Mature pods flat, curved, yellowish brown, to 1 ft long, in clusters with many more pods than *P. pallida*. *Prosopis*, ancient Greek for burdock, reference unclear; *juliflora*, cylindrical inflorescence, or catkin^(69, 70).

Distribution: Native to tropical America. Infests the southwestern USA. In Hawai‘i occurs in dry leeward areas between the Pacific Missile Tracking Range and Waimea on Kaua‘i, between Sand Island and Maili on O‘ahu, and has been found at Kawaihae on Hawai‘i, and on Moloka‘i (Nilton Matayoshi, HDOA).

Environmental impact: Capable of rendering large areas impassible and displacing lower-growing plants. Will cross with *P. pallida*.



Management: Sensitive to triclopyr. HAVO staff reported control with basal bark application of triclopyr ester at 5% product in diesel oil. (Chris Zimmer, HAVO). Small plants (to 5 ft) on Kaua‘i killed by foliar drizzle application of triclopyr ester at 15% in crop oil, but it took a year. Tebuthiuron was also effective. Mainland researchers report good results on *Prosopis glandulosa* Torr. with mixtures of triclopyr and clopyralid and with tebuthiuron⁽⁷⁾.