

Pyracantha angustifolia

Firethorn

Pyracantha angustifolia (Franch.) C.K. Schneid.

Family: Rosaceae

Description: Semiwoody shrub to 12 ft tall, stems rigid, branched, thorns leafy. Leaves 2 inches long by 0.6 inches wide, upper surface hairy when young, smooth when mature. Lower surface of leaf is hairy, gray⁽⁷⁰⁾, as is the case with Kōkeʻe specimens, but the leaves of the plants at Volcano are smooth. Flowers in clusters, white. Fruit small, 0.3 inches diameter, numerous, bright red or orange. The generic name is derived from *pyr*, fire; and *acanthos*, thorn, in reference to the thorns and brightly colored berries; *angustifolia*, narrow leaves^(5, 70).

Distribution: Native to China. Infests high-elevation areas in South Africa⁽²²⁾. In Hawaiʻi, occurs in higher-elevation (3000–4000 ft) mesic to wet pastures and forests: Kōkeʻe on Kauaʻi and Volcano on Hawaiʻi. First collected on Kauaʻi in 1986⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Grows along forest edges and in pastures and waste lands. Thorns impede passage.



Management: Somewhat tolerant of triclopyr. May require crop oil as adjuvant or carrier to enhance herbicide uptake. Katie Cassel (Kōkeʻe Museum) reports that cut-stump treatments with glyphosate or triclopyr are effective. Application of triclopyr to frills or basal bark caused slow and erratic results. Application of glyphosate (undiluted product) to frill was somewhat more effective than triclopyr. HAVO staff reported control with foliar applications of triclopyr amine at 2% product in water (Chris Zimmer, HAVO).