

Rhodomyrtus tomentosa

Downy rosemyrtle, Isenberg bush

Rhodomyrtus tomentosa (Aiton) Hassk.

Family: Myrtaceae

Description: Shrub with upright branches, to 9 ft tall. Leaves ovate, 4 inches long by 2 inches wide, upper surface glossy, underside hairy, with two prominent veins along the leaf margins. Flowers 1–5 in clusters, each 1 inch diameter, lavender. Fruits dark purple. Seeds few, coiled appearance or horseshoe shaped, spread by birds. Greek *rhodon*, red, referring to the rose colored flowers of some members of this genus; *myrtos*, myrtle; *tomentosa*, woolly^(5, 70).

Distribution: A pest in moist to wet pastures and forests. Naturalized on Kauaʻi, Oʻahu, and Hawaiʻi. Cultivated on the other main islands. Introduced by a resident of Kauaʻi in the early 1900s. Native to Southeast Asia⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Forms dense stands in forests and monotypic stands in pastures.



Management: Not grazed by cattle. Sensitive to foliar applications of dicamba at 2 lb/acre and triclopyr at 2 lb/acre but requires follow-up treatments. Sensitive to conventional basal bark applications of 2% triclopyr ester product and to 20% in very-low-volume basal bark applications. In stump bark applications, 2% 2,4-D or triclopyr ester products in oil by conventional spraying or 20% triclopyr ester product in very-low-volume applications were effective. Tolerates metsulfuron and soil-applied tebuthiuron.