

Syzygium cumini

Java plum

Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeels
Syn. *Eugenia cuminii*

Family: Myrtaceae

Description: Large tree to 60 ft tall, bark pale, thick, flaky. Leaves ovate, aromatic when crushed, 7 inches long by 4 inches wide. Flowers small, in clusters, white with 100 stamens. Berries dark purple, glossy, 1 inch long, holding 1 seed. Generic name from *syn* meaning together and *zygon* meaning yoked, referring to the fusion of the calyx and corolla⁽⁷⁰⁾ or paired or opposite as in branching or arrangement of leaves⁽¹⁹⁾; *cumini*, the spice cumin, after the spicy smell of the crushed leaves^(5, 70).

Distribution: Native to South Asia, java plum was already cultivated in Hawai‘i by 1871. Naturalized in moist valleys and forests, especially along streams on all the main islands except Ni‘ihau and Kaho‘olawe⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Invades mesic valleys, especially along stream banks, and provides deep shade.



Management: Sensitive to foliar application of triclopyr and very sensitive to picloram. Saplings up to 10 ft tall were susceptible to drizzle applications of triclopyr ester in crop oil at 1 lb/acre. Sensitive to cut-surface applications (to drilled holes) of 2,4-D, dicamba, glyphosate, and triclopyr, and to basal bark and stump bark applications of triclopyr, 2,4-D, and imazapyr. In Florida, basal bark applications of triclopyr ester at 10% product in oil, in cut-surface applications with triclopyr amine at 50% product in water, and with triclopyr ester at 10% product in water were all effective⁽³⁰⁾. Large trees have thick bark that makes basal bark treatments ineffective. Goats browse on java plum leaves (An Peischel).