

Syzygium jambos

Roseapple

Syzygium jambos (L.) Alston

Family: Myrtaceae

Description: Large tree to 50 ft tall. Leaves ovate, up to 9 inches long by 2 inches wide. Flowers in clusters, 4 white to greenish-white petals, 200 stamens, creamy white. Fruits yellow, often tinged with rose; sweet, flowery taste; encloses a single seed loosely held⁽⁷⁰⁾. *Jambos*, after Jambi, an Indonesian province on Sumatra⁽¹⁷⁾.



Distribution: Origin probably tropical Asia, brought to Hawai'i for its fruit in 1825 from Brazil. Occurs on all the main islands except Ni'ihau and Kaho'olawe in moist to wet areas⁽⁷⁰⁾. Also a pest in Florida⁽³⁰⁾ and in the Galapagos⁽³¹⁾.

Environmental impact: Forms dense stands in mesic forests and pastures, shading out undergrowth.

Management: Sensitive to picloram applied cut-surface and to glyphosate applied to drilled holes. Good control with triclopyr applied basal bark and cut-surface⁽³⁰⁾.