

Tibouchina urvilleana

Glorybush, lasiandra, princess flower

Tibouchina urvilleana (DC) Cogn.
Syn. *T. semicandra*

Family: Melastomataceae

Description: Branched shrub to 12 ft tall. Young stems angled, hairy. Leaves opposite, up to 5 inches long by 2 inches wide, 5–7 prominent veins, hairy. Flowers with 5 purple petals. Fruits small, cup-like, 0.6 inch long by 0.4 inches wide; seeds many, very small, apparently not viable. [*Tibouchina longifolia* (Vahl) Baill. ex Cogn., a white flowered shrub, has been located on Stainback Highway on Hawai‘i.] *Urvilliana* in honor of Jules Sebastien Cesar Dumont d’Urville, 19th century French explorer⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Distribution: Native to Brazil. Occurs in wet zones on Hawai‘i, Maui, O‘ahu, and Kaua‘i. Prominent around Volcano, Hawai‘i, and Kōke‘e State Park, Kaua‘i. Introduced at Kurtistown, Hawai‘i about 1910⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Forms dense thickets in disturbed areas in forests. Apparently not spread by seed; readily roots from stem fragments⁽⁷⁰⁾.



Management: Metsulfuron in foliar sprays 80% effective, glyphosate reportedly not effective. Bryon Stevens (DOFAW) reported good control with drizzle application of triclopyr ester at 5% of product in water applied on sunny days. HAVO staff reported control with triclopyr ester at 2% in water applied as foliar sprays (Chris Zimmer, HAVO). Katie Cassel (Kōke‘e Museum) reported triclopyr ester at 20% product in oil applied to cut surfaces effective and on plants with stems 1 inch diameter, basal bark applications effective. Matted stems, however, presented a coverage problem. Cut-stump treatments with triclopyr ester at 20% in diesel oil were effective⁽⁶⁶⁾.