



O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program

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Updated Notice: *Tibouchina longifolia* Seed Contamination of Cinder

In September 2016, OANRP staff discovered Melastomaceae seedlings growing out of potting media at both our nursery at Schofield Barracks and at the Nike Nursery Facility in the northern Waianae Mountains. In all, about 30 seedlings were found. This species has been identified as *Tibouchina longifolia* both by Bishop Museum herbarium staff and via genetic analysis by Dr. Cliff Morden's lab. The entire *Tibouchina* genus is on the Hawaii Noxious Weed list.

Tibouchina longifolia is currently only known from the Hilo and Puna regions of the Big Island. This is the first documented instance of it growing on O'ahu. The Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment score for *T. longifolia* is 8, giving it a 'High Risk' rating. The very fact that it spread to O'ahu suggests this taxa has invasive potential.

We strongly suspect the Big Island-produced cinder in our media was the source of the *T. longifolia* contamination. Since this discovery, we bare-root cleaned and transplanted all potentially contaminated plants to prevent accidental introduction of *T. longifolia* into any of our work sites. This is the first time we've found such Melastomaceae contamination in our nursery in more than 10 years of operation. We suspect that the contaminated cinder was part of a purchase made in May or September of this year. We no longer use cinder as part of our media. We have discussed the issue with the vendor, and also have notified HDOA.

We strongly encourage other programs examine their greenhouses, potting media, and any plants destined for outplanting for similar contamination. Also, it may be prudent to monitor the sites of previous reintroductions for *Tibouchina longifolia* keiki and other pests. If *Tibouchina* seeds can make their way to Oahu, a pathway may exist for other noxious pests too.

Please contact Dan Sailer (dksailer@gmail.com), Joby Rohrer (jobriath.l.rohrer.ctr@mail.mil) or Jane Beachy (beachy@hawaii.edu) for more information

Appendix 3-16
Seedling



3-4 months



4-5 months



4-5 months



Buds, 4-5 months



Flower, 6 months



Flower, 6 months