Taxon: Hiptage benghalensis (L.) Kurz **Family:** Malpighiaceae

Common Name(s): helicopter flower
hiptage

Synonym(s): Banisteria benghalensis L.
Hiptage madablota Gaertn.

Assessor: Chuck Chimera **Status:** Approved **End Date:** 5 Feb 2026

WRA Score: 11.0 **Designation:** H(HPWRA) **Rating:** High Risk

Keywords: Smothering Liana, Naturalized, Environmental Weed, Self-Compatible, Wind-Dispersed

Qsn #	Question	Answer Option	Answer
101	Is the species highly domesticated?	y = -3, n = 0	n
102	Has the species become naturalized where grown?		
103	Does the species have weedy races?		
201	Species suited to tropical or subtropical climate(s) - If island is primarily wet habitat, then substitute "wet tropical" for "tropical or subtropical"	0 = low, 1 = intermediate, 2 = high (see Appendix 2)	High
202	Quality of climate match data	0 = low, 1 = intermediate, 2 = high (see Appendix 2)	High
203	Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)	y = 1, n = 0	n
204	Native or naturalized in regions with tropical or subtropical climates	y = 1, n = 0	y
205	Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?	y= -2, ? = -1, n = 0	y
301	Naturalized beyond native range	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = question 205	y
302	Garden/amenity/disturbance weed		
303	Agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed		
304	Environmental weed	y = 2*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	y
305	Congeneric weed	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
401	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	y = 1, n = 0	n
402	Allelopathic		
403	Parasitic	y = 1, n = 0	n
404	Unpalatable to grazing animals		
405	Toxic to animals	y = 1, n = 0	n
406	Host for recognized pests and pathogens		
407	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	y = 1, n = 0	n
408	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems		
409	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle	y = 1, n = 0	y
410	Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions (or limestone conditions if not a volcanic island)	y = 1, n = 0	y

Qsn #	Question	Answer Option	Answer
411	Climbing or smothering growth habit	y = 1, n = 0	y
412	Forms dense thickets	y = 1, n = 0	y
501	Aquatic	y = 5, n = 0	n
502	Grass	y = 1, n = 0	n
503	Nitrogen fixing woody plant	y = 1, n = 0	n
504	Geophyte (herbaceous with underground storage organs -- bulbs, corms, or tubers)	y = 1, n = 0	n
601	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat	y = 1, n = 0	n
602	Produces viable seed	y = 1, n = -1	y
603	Hybridizes naturally		
604	Self-compatible or apomictic	y = 1, n = -1	y
605	Requires specialist pollinators	y = -1, n = 0	n
606	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation	y = 1, n = -1	n
607	Minimum generative time (years)	1 year = 1, 2 or 3 years = 0, 4+ years = -1	3
701	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked areas)	y = 1, n = -1	y
702	Propagules dispersed intentionally by people	y = 1, n = -1	y
703	Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant	y = 1, n = -1	n
704	Propagules adapted to wind dispersal	y = 1, n = -1	y
705	Propagules water dispersed	y = 1, n = -1	y
706	Propagules bird dispersed	y = 1, n = -1	n
707	Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)	y = 1, n = -1	n
708	Propagules survive passage through the gut	y = 1, n = -1	n
801	Prolific seed production (>1000/m2)	y = 1, n = -1	n
802	Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)		
803	Well controlled by herbicides	y = -1, n = 1	y
804	Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation, cultivation, or fire	y = 1, n = -1	y
805	Effective natural enemies present locally (e.g. introduced biocontrol agents)		

Supporting Data:

Qsn #	Question	Answer
101	Is the species highly domesticated?	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Flora of North America Editorial Committee. (2016). Flora of North America North of Mexico. Volume 12. Magnoliophyta: Vitaceae to Garryaceae. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford	[No evidence] "Hiptage benghalensis is thought to be native from India and Sri Lanka to the Philippines, but it is difficult to know the true natural range because it has been cultivated as an ornamental for a long time and escapes readily, spreading aggressively and becoming a serious pest. The species is cultivated as an ornamental and locally naturalized in southernmost Florida."

102	Has the species become naturalized where grown?	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	NA

103	Does the species have weedy races?	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	NA

201	Species suited to tropical or subtropical climate(s) - If island is primarily wet habitat, then substitute "wet tropical" for "tropical or subtropical"	High
	Source(s)	Notes
	POWO (2026). Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; https://powo.science.kew.org/. [Accessed 4 Feb 2026]	"Native to: Andaman Is., Assam, Bangladesh, Borneo, Cambodia, China South-Central, China Southeast, East Himalaya, Hainan, India, Jawa, Laos, Lesser Sunda Is., Malaya, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicobar Is., Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sulawesi, Sumatera, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam "

202	Quality of climate match data	High
	Source(s)	Notes
	POWO (2026). Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; https://powo.science.kew.org/. [Accessed 4 Feb 2026]	"Native to: Andaman Is., Assam, Bangladesh, Borneo, Cambodia, China South-Central, China Southeast, East Himalaya, Hainan, India, Jawa, Laos, Lesser Sunda Is., Malaya, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicobar Is., Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sulawesi, Sumatera, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam "

203	Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Csurhes, S. (2016). Invasive plant risk assessment. Hiptage. Hiptage benghalensis. The State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	"H. benghalensis prefers tropical and subtropical climates. It can persist in seasonally dry areas but tends to prefer moist, shady areas. Most naturalised populations are in closed forests and along the banks of waterways."
	Wu, Z.Y., Raven,P.H. & Hong, D.Y. (eds.). (2008). Flora of China. Vol. 11 (Oxalidaceae through Aceraceae). Science Press & Missouri Botanical Garden Press, Beijing & St. Louis	[Elevation range >1000 m] "Dense forests, sparse forests, shrub forests of valleys, riverbanks, field margins, roadsides; (100-)200-1900 m."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
204	**Native or naturalized in regions with tropical or subtropical climates**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Csurhes, S. (2016). Invasive plant risk assessment. Hiptage. Hiptage benghalensis. The State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	"H. benghalensis prefers tropical and subtropical climates. It can persist in seasonally dry areas but tends to prefer moist, shady areas. Most naturalised populations are in closed forests and along the banks of waterways."
	POWO (2026). Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; https://powo.science.kew.org/. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	"Native to: Andaman Is., Assam, Bangladesh, Borneo, Cambodia, China South-Central, China Southeast, East Himalaya, Hainan, India, Jawa, Laos, Lesser Sunda Is., Malaya, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicobar Is., Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sulawesi, Sumatera, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam "

205	**Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	POWO (2026). Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; https://powo.science.kew.org/. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	"Introduced into: Florida, Hawaii, Mauritius, Queensland, Réunion, Seychelles"

301	**Naturalized beyond native range**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Thi Xuan Lam, et al. (2025). Status of Hiptage benghalensis (L.) Kurz (Malpighiaceae). A review. Botany Letters, 172(2), 149-165	"Hiptage benghalensis (L.) Kurz (Malpighiaceae) is a perennial woody vine originating from the Indochinese rainforest. The vine is invasive in the majority of areas where it has been introduced and is a major biological concern, recognized by the IUCN as one of the 100 most invasive species in the world. Invasions of H. benghalensis cause severe negative impacts on the biodiversity of the areas it colonizes, particularly the Mascarene Islands, which are among the world's top biodiversity hotspots. Current management strategies, which include herbicides and mechanical control, are not sustainable and alternatives are urgently needed. This review aims to summarize the existing knowledge on H. benghalensis, covering aspects such as taxonomy, description, origin and geographical distribution, biology, ecology, associated habitats and biocenosis, economic importance and management. This essential information will help inform the development of a classical biological control program to assist in the management of the plant."
	Csurhes, S. (2016). Invasive plant risk assessment. Hiptage. Hiptage benghalensis. The State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	"Naturalised populations exist on the Hawaiian islands of Kaua'i and O'ahu, the Mascarene islands of Réunion and Mauritius, and in Florida (United States) and Australia (ISSG 2006)."
	Murphy, M., & Yogi, D. (2026). BIISC Plant Pono Specialist - Invasive Plant Prevention. personal communication. 04 February	[Hawaii island] "Darcy and I were recently alerted to a population of H. benghalensis in the upper Hoʻokena area and conducted a site visit today. We can confirm it is the correct species." ... "The plant is now well established on the property. We observed extensive recruitment, with more than 50 seedlings documented at a single site. The property was landscaped 60 years ago, so the H. benghalensis was likely planted then." ...

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Lorence, D. H., & Flynn, T. (2006). New naturalized plant records for Kaua ‘i and Hawai ‘i. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers, 88, 1-5	[Kauaʻi] "Malpighiaceae Hiptage benghalensis (L.) Kurz New naturalized record Although known to be naturalized on Kauaʻi since at least 1995, when it was found in the Hoary Head range between Omoe and Läʻaukahi, no naturalized record has ever been published for this species. At present, H. benghalensis is estimated by the Kauaʻi Invasive Species Committee (KISC) to cover some 500 acres [202 ha] of land along the Hulëʻia, Puhi, and Hoinakaunalehua streams in SE Kauaʻi. It is also on the adjoining N flank of the Hoary Head range below Hökülei and Hokonui peaks. Hiptage was formerly cultivated at the National Tropical Botanical Garden and Olu Pua Botanic Garden, both in Kaläheo. Plants at the NTBG have long been removed, but Hiptage may still exist in and around Olu Pua, which is now a private estate. Material examined: KAUAʻI: Lihue Distr, Puhi, along Hwy 50 across from Kauaʻi Nursery and Landscaping. Secondary vegetation, 280 ft [85 m], 2 Apr 2004, T. Flynn 7117 (AD, BISH, MO, NY, PTBG, US)."
	Daehler, C. C. & Baker, R. F. (2006). New Records of Naturalized and Naturalizing Plants Around Lyon Arboretum, Mänoa Valley, Oʻahu. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 87: 3-18	[Oʻahu] "Malpighiaceae Hiptage benghalensis (L.) Kurz New naturalized record This liana, native to Indo-Asia, was first planted in 1920 under the synonymous name Hiptage madablota Gaertn. (Neal 1965: 494). In the 1980s, Arboretum staff noted that it was “out of control” around the original planting in Haukulu, and the plants were cut back. Nevertheless, this species has naturalized in unmanaged gullies in Haukulu, where it forms dense thickets. Although individual plants can cover very large areas by sprawling, the plant is also reproducing by seed, as evidenced by seedling around mature individuals. The seeds are wind-dispersed. Material examined: OʻAHU: Several large plants forming thickets in a steep-banked gully, Haukulu, at the border between Lyon Arboretum and former Paradise Park, 1 Mar 2005, C. Daehler 1064 (BISH), 1065 (HAW); University of Hawaiʻi, Mänoa campus (cultivated), 16 Oct 1967, Herbst 656 (HLA); Keaʻahala Stream, Käneʻohe, cascading over canopy of Ficus microcarpa and Syzygium cumini, 12 Apr 2001, Imada 2001-49 (BISH)."

302	Garden/amenity/disturbance weed	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Csurhes, S. (2016). Invasive plant risk assessment. Hiptage. Hiptage benghalensis. The State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	[A disturbance adapted plant with environmental impacts] "On the island of Réunion, it is most abundant in disturbed sites such as forest gaps, landslides and along river banks."

303	Agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Kueffer, C., Vos, P., Lavergne, C., & Mauremootoo, J. (2004). Woody invasive species in the Western Indian Ocean: A regional assessment. Forest Genetic Resources No. 31: 25-30	[Possibly. Listed among agricultural weeds of the Mascarenes] "Economic Impacts - Concerns over agricultural woody weeds were mainly mentioned in the Union of the Comoros (e.g. Clidemia hirta, Lantana camara, Litsea glutinosa, Psidium cattleianum). Acacia nilotica is a weed on rangeland in Rodrigues. Other agricultural weeds in the Mascarenes are for instance Acacia mearnsii, Hiptage benghalensis, Homalanthus populifolius, Leucaena leucocephala or Rubus alceifolius. In Seychelles creepers such as Thunbergia grandiflora or Merremia peltata are particularly perceived as very problematic weeds. Invasive species that are also agricultural weeds are an opportunity for awareness building, mainstreaming, and application of the existing legislation. Besides agricultural weeds no major impacts on humans were mentioned for the region. "

304	Environmental weed	y

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Motooka, P., Castro, L., Nelson, D., Nagai, G. & Ching,L. (2003). Weeds of Hawaii's Pastures and Natural Areas: An Identification and Management Guide. CTAHR, UH Manoa, Honolulu, HI	"Environmental impact: Smothers tall trees."
	Global Invasive Species Database. (2026). 100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species. https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/100_worst.php. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	"Hiptage benghalensis is a native of India, Southeast Asia and the Philippines. The genus name, Hiptage, is derived from the Greek hiptamai which means to fly and refers to its unique three-winged fruit known as samara . Due to the beautiful unique form of its flowers, it is often cultivated as a tropical ornamental in gardens. It has been recorded as being a weed in Australian rainforests and is extremely invasive on Mauritius and Réunion, where it thrives in dry lowland forests, forming impenetrable thickets and smothering native vegetation."
	Weber, E. (2017). Invasive Plant Species of the World, 2nd Edition: A Reference Guide to Environmental Weeds. CABI Publishing, Wallingford, UK	"Hiptage grows in dense to open forests, on riverbanks and at field margins in the native range. In China, the plant is found from 200-1900 m altitude (FOC, 2014). Seeds are dispersed by wind and germinate readily. The plant appears to have a short-lived seed bank in the soil (Vitelli et al., 2009). Hiptage has become invasive on a number of tropical islands and in Florida. Recently the species began to spread in the wet tropics of northern Queensland, Australia (Vitelli et al., 2009). It forms impenetrable thickets and smothers woody shrubs and trees (Tassin, 1999). Although little work has been done on the ecological impacts of this climber, it is likely that native plant communities are being depauperated by the spread of Hiptage benghalensis."
	Staples, G.W. & Herbst, D.R. (2005). A Tropical Garden Flora - Plants Cultivated in the Hawaiian Islands and Other Tropical Places. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, HI	"Hiptage has become a serious pest in wet forests on Mauritius and threatens to do the same on Kaua'i, where a population has escaped from cultivation and become established in the wild. Biologists are attempting to eradicate this species before it spreads any farther. Gardeners should take care that their garden plants do not spread into nearby forested areas."

305	Congeneric weed	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	No evidence
	Global Invasive Species Database (2026). https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	No evidence

401	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Wu, Z.Y., Raven,P.H. & Hong, D.Y. (eds.). (2008). Flora of China. Vol. 11 (Oxalidaceae through Aceraceae). Science Press & Missouri Botanical Garden Press, Beijing & St. Louis	[No evidence] "Shrubs or lianas, 3-10 m or more; branchlets and inflorescences densely yellowish brown or silver-gray pubescent; branches glabrate, ferruginous-red or dark gray, with light- colored lenticels. Petiole 5-10 mm, canaliculate adaxially; leaf blade leathery, oblong, elliptic-oblong, or ovate-lanceolate, 9-18 × 3-7 cm, young leaves light red, pubescent, old leaves green, glabrous, base broadly cuneate or rounded, abaxially often with 2 glands, apex acuminate; lateral veins 6 or 7 pairs. Racemes axillary or terminal, 5-10 cm, inflorescence yellowish brown pubescent, glabrate; pedicels articulate at middle or distally; bracteoles subulate-lanceolate. Flowers very fragrant. Sepals broadly elliptic or ovate, 5-6 mm, apex rounded, densely yellow-brown pubescent; gland thick, large, oblong, ca. 1/2 adnate on pedicel. Petals white, base yellow maculate, or yellowish or pink, orbicular or broadly elliptic, 8-15 × 5-10 mm, pubescent, apex rounded, base clawed, margin fimbriate. Stamens differing in size, longest 8-12 mm, others 3-5 mm; anthers elliptic, 1-2 mm. Style ca. 12 mm, circinate. Samara body shortly sericeous, wings glabrous, abaxial wing elliptic or obovate-lanceolate, 3.5-5(-7) × 1-1.6 cm, apex entire or retuse, lateral wings lanceolate-oblong, 1.5-3 cm, base of wing with 1 triangular-crested appendage."

402	Allelopathic	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. There are no published experimental studies clearly demonstrating allelopathic effects

403	Parasitic	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Wu, Z.Y., Raven,P.H. & Hong, D.Y. (eds.). (2008). Flora of China. Vol. 11 (Oxalidaceae through Aceraceae). Science Press & Missouri Botanical Garden Press, Beijing & St. Louis	"Shrubs or lianas, 3-10 m or more; branchlets and inflorescences densely yellowish brown or silver-gray pubescent; branches glabrate, ferruginous-red or dark gray, with light- colored lenticels." [No evidence]

404	Unpalatable to grazing animals	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Sciumbata, M., Palimar, S., Chaudhary, R., Weedon, J., Aerts, R., & Cornelissen, J. (2025). Disentangling the drivers of deer diet composition in subtropical Nepal: the role of plant apparency and nutritional quality among growth forms and vegetation types. Authorea. November 12, 2025. DOI: 10.22541/au.176296491.18402726/v1	[Possibly browsed by axis deer] "Chitals were observed using several techniques to access the higher foliage of the understorey plants (Figure S1). Male chitals were observed using their antlers to pull and snap the stems to reach leaves that were otherwise inaccessible. This was first directly observed with the climber Hiptage benghalensis and Murraya koenigii. "
	Global Invasive Species Database (2026) Species profile: Hiptage benghalensis. http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=87. [Accessed]	[Unknown, but potentially unpalatable] "The leaves and bark are hot, acrid, bitter, insecticidal, vulnerary and useful in treatment of biliousness, cough, burning sensation, thirst and inflammation; it has the ability to treat skin diseases and leprosy (Agharkar, 1991)."

405	Toxic to animals	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Hiptage benghalensis isn't generally considered poisonous to people or pets based on current scientific sources, though definitive toxicology data are limited. Like many ornamental plants with bioactive compounds, it's best not to ingest it and to handle it with reasonable care.

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Nelson, L. S., Balick, M. J. (2020). Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants. United States: Springer US, New York, NY	No evidence
	Quattrocchi, U. (2012). CRC World Dictionary of Medicinal and Poisonous Plants: Common Names, Scientific Names, Eponyms, Synonyms, and Etymology. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL	No evidence
	Wagstaff, D.J. (2008). International poisonous plants checklist: an evidence-based reference. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL	No evidence

406	Host for recognized pests and pathogens	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Pandey, V., & Sundararaj, R. (2006). Distribution and host range of the babul whitefly Acaudaleyrodes rachipora (Singh) in India. In S. Jayaraj (Ed.), Biodiversity and Insect Pest Management (pp. 195-197). Narosa Publishing House	"The babul whitefly, Acaudaleyrodes rachipora (Singh) is one of the major insect pests of arid and semi-arid region of Rajasthan. It is highly polyphagous, reproducing on more than 48 host plants, and is more serious on seedlings of important tree species like Prosopis spp., Acacia spp., L. Jeucocephala, A. lebbeck, etc. Its infestation occurs widely throughout the arid and semi-arid tracts of India. It is found distributed in many states of India and found breeding on 77 host plants representing 24 families. Among them, 13 hosts viz., Acacia ampliseps, A. nodusa, Albizia procera, Berberis sp . Bombax ceiba, Commiphora -wightii, Derris indica, Ficus carica, F. religiosa, Hiptage benghalensis, Mimusops hexandra, Tecoma stans and Terminalia arjuna form new host records. Further, plants belonging to six families viz., Bambacaceae, Berberidaceae, Burseraceae, Combretaceae, Malpighiaceae and Sapotaceae were recorded for the first time as hosts."

407	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Quattrocchi, U. (2012). CRC World Dictionary of Medicinal and Poisonous Plants: Common Names, Scientific Names, Eponyms, Synonyms, and Etymology. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL	[Used medicinally. No evidence of acute toxicity] "Used in Ayurveda and Sidha. Plant sap as a cooling agent. Bark, leaves and flowers useful in wounds, ulcers, inflammation, leprosy, scabies, cough, rheumatism. Leaves juice insecticide, applied for scabies; leaf paste applied on scabies; leaves in asthma, rheumatism, scabies and skin diseases. Veterinary medicine, leaves given to cows for more lactation. Ceremonial, ritual, ingredient of Patra pooja in different religious pooja ceremonies, in Ganesh-pooja.)"
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Hiptage benghalensis isn't generally considered poisonous to people or pets based on current scientific sources, though definitive toxicology data are limited. Like many ornamental plants with bioactive compounds, it's best not to ingest it and to handle it with reasonable care.
	Nelson, L. S., Balick, M. J. (2020). Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants. United States: Springer US, New York, NY	No evidence
	Wagstaff, D.J. (2008). International poisonous plants checklist: an evidence-based reference. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL	No evidence

408	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems	
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Global Invasive Species Database (2026) Species profile: Hiptage benghalensis. http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=87. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	[Could potentially contribute to fuel load, or serve as a ladder fuel, in dry, fire prone ecosystems] "It has been recorded as being a weed in Australian rainforests and is extremely invasive on Mauritius and Réunion, where it thrives in dry lowland forests, forming impenetrable thicket and smothering native vegetation."

409	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Queensland Government. (2026). Weeds of Australia - Hiptage benghalensis. https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/hiptage_benghalensis.htm. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	"Hiptage (Hiptage benghalensis) is most commonly naturalised in closed forests and along waterways, and prefers moist and shady habitats."
	Staples, G.W. & Herbst, D.R. (2005). A Tropical Garden Flora - Plants Cultivated in the Hawaiian Islands and Other Tropical Places. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, HI	"It should be grown in full sun to encourage maximum blossoming and is usually propagated by 4-5" long semiwoody cuttings."
	l'Horset, R., Castets, M., Cazaux, E., Fenouillas, P., Soleyen, C. A., Seen, D. L., & Rouget, M. (2025). Massive spread of invasive plant species predicted from spatio-temporal modelling on Reunion Island. Global Ecology and Conservation, 62, e03680	[Able to establish in shady locations] "Table 1 Main characteristics of the modelled species (Anthoxanthum odoratum, Hiptage benghalensis, Solanum mauritianum)." [H. benghalensis - Light tolerance - Heliophilous, shade tolerant at early stages]

410	Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions (or limestone conditions if not a volcanic island)	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lemmens, R.H.M.J. & Bunyapraphatsara, N. (Eds.). (2003). Plant Resources of South-East Asia. No 12(3). Medicinal and Poisonous Plants 3. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands	"H. benghalensis occurs under both humid and periodically dry conditions, in open forest, secondary forest, clearings and forest margins, on a wide range of soils, from sea-level up to 1000(-2000) m altitude."
	Whistler, W.A. (2000). Tropical Ornamentals: A Guide. Timber Press, Portland, OR	"Moist but well drained soils in sunny places are preferred"
	Vitelli, J. S., Madigan, B. A., Van Haaren, P. E., Setter, S., & Logan, P. (2009). Control of the invasive liana, Hiptage benghalensis. Weed Biology and Management, 9(1), 54-62	"Naturalized pockets of hiptage were recorded in 1980, growing on the sandy loam soils along the banks of the Burnett River ..."

411	Climbing or smothering growth habit	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Weber, E. (2017). Invasive Plant Species of the World, 2nd Edition: A Reference Guide to Environmental Weeds. CABI Publishing, Wallingford, UK	"It forms impenetrable thickets and smothers woody shrubs and trees (Tassin, 1999). Although little work has been done on the ecological impacts of this climber, it is likely that native plant communities are being depauperated by the spread of Hiptage benghalensis."
	Global Invasive Species Database (2026) Species profile: Hiptage benghalensis. http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=87. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	"It has been recorded as being a weed in Australian rainforests and is extremely invasive on Mauritius and Réunion, where it thrives in dry lowland forests, forming impenetrable thicket and smothering native vegetation."

412	Forms dense thickets	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Daehler, C. C. & Baker, R. F. (2006). New Records of Naturalized and Naturalizing Plants Around Lyon Arboretum, Mānoa Valley, Oʻahu. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 87: 3-18	"In the 1980s, Arboretum staff noted that it was “out of control” around the original planting in Haukulu, and the plants were cut back. Nevertheless, this species has naturalized in unmanaged gullies in Haukulu, where it forms dense thickets."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Weber, E. (2017). Invasive Plant Species of the World, 2nd Edition: A Reference Guide to Environmental Weeds. CABI Publishing, Wallingford, UK	"It forms impenetrable thickets and smothers woody shrubs and trees (Tassin, 1999). Although little work has been done on the ecological impacts of this climber, it is likely that native plant communities are being depauperated by the spread of Hiptage benghalensis."
	Global Invasive Species Database (2026) Species profile: Hiptage benghalensis. http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=87. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	"It has been recorded as being a weed in Australian rainforests and is extremely invasive on Mauritius and Réunion, where it thrives in dry lowland forests, forming impenetrable thickets and smothering native vegetation."

501	Aquatic	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lemmens, R.H.M.J. & Bunyapraphatsara, N. (Eds.). (2003). Plant Resources of South-East Asia. No 12(3). Medicinal and Poisonous Plants 3. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands	[Terrestrial] "H. benghalensis occurs under both humid and periodically dry conditions, in open forest, secondary forest, clearings and forest margins, on a wide range of soils, from sea-level up to 1000(-2000) m altitude."

502	Grass	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	POWO (2026). Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; https://powo.science.kew.org/. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	Family Malpighiaceae

503	Nitrogen fixing woody plant	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	POWO (2026). Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; https://powo.science.kew.org/. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	Family Malpighiaceae

504	Geophyte (herbaceous with underground storage organs -- bulbs, corms, or tubers)	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lemmens, R.H.M.J. & Bunyapraphatsara, N. (Eds.). (2003). Plant Resources of South-East Asia. No 12(3). Medicinal and Poisonous Plants 3. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands	"A scandent shrub or liana up to 30 m long; young shoots densely fulvous-hairy, glabrescent, often lenticellate."

601	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lemmens, R.H.M.J. & Bunyapraphatsara, N. (Eds.). (2003). Plant Resources of South-East Asia. No 12(3). Medicinal and Poisonous Plants 3. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands	[No evidence] "H. benghalensis occurs in India, Sri Lanka, Burma (Myanmar), Indo-China, southern China, Taiwan, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, the Lesser Sunda Islands, Borneo, the Philippines (Palawan) and Sulawesi. It has been introduced in islands of the Pacific, where it is considered an aggressive invasive species."

602	Produces viable seed	y

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Daehler, C. C. & Baker, R. F. (2006). New Records of Naturalized and Naturalizing Plants Around Lyon Arboretum, Mānoa Valley, O'ahu. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 87: 3-18	"Although individual plants can cover very large areas by sprawling, the plant is also reproducing by seed, as evidenced by seedling around mature individuals. The seeds are wind-dispersed."
	Lemmens, R.H.M.J. & Bunyapraphatsara, N. (Eds.). (2003). Plant Resources of South-East Asia. No 12(3). Medicinal and Poisonous Plants 3. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands	"H. benghalensis is easily propagated by seed or by layering."
	Vitelli, J. S., Madigan, B. A., Van Haaren, P. E., Setter, S., & Logan, P. (2009). Control of the invasive liana, Hiptage benghalensis. Weed Biology and Management, 9(1), 54-62	"The seed viability was significantly different (P < 0.0005) between the fresh (62%) and 2 year old, laboratory-stored fruit (0%), with seed removed from the samara recording the highest viability (65%) (Fig. 2).The germinability for the viable, fresh hiptage seed was high (>98%).Twenty-three percent of the seeds were polyembryonic, with two gametophytes originating from the same ovule."

603	Hybridizes naturally	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. No evidence found

604	Self-compatible or apomictic	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Ren, M. X., Zhong, Y. F., & Song, X. Q. (2013). Mirror-image flowers without buzz pollination in the Asian endemic Hiptage benghalensis (Malpighiaceae). Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, 173(4), 764-774	"Flowers of H. benghalensis showed no significant differences in fruit set from the self- (72%) and cross-pollinated (75%) treatments for both left- and right-styled flowers (Fig. 5), suggesting that H. benghalensis is self-compatible. Spontaneous autogamy did not occur, as bagged flowers did not set fruit (Fig. 5). The hand-pollinated flowers, including selfing and outcrossing, produced significantly more fruits than the open-pollinated flowers (Fig. 5 one-way ANOVA, F = 55.38, P < 0.005)."

605	Requires specialist pollinators	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Ren, M. X., Zhong, Y. F., & Song, X. Q. (2013). Mirror-image flowers without buzz pollination in the Asian endemic Hiptage benghalensis (Malpighiaceae). Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, 173(4), 764-774	"The distribution of A. dorsata (southern and southeastern Asia) is quite similar to that of H. benghalensis and this large-bodied honeybee is widespread in the mountains on Hainan Island, including our study site (Cao & Hu, 2012). Therefore, we concluded that A. dorsata is the most effective pollinator of H. benghalensis, although the cosmopolitan A. mellifera probably provides some pollination services (Table 1). Our observations showed that when a pollinator enters a flower, the stigma and the anther of the large stamen can touch the left and/or right parts of the abdomen of the pollinator, respectively (Fig. 1D), which can promote cross-pollination between the left- and right-styled flowers (Jesson & Barrett, 2002,2005; Gao et al., 2006)."

606	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Csurhes, S. (2016). Invasive plant risk assessment. Hiptage. Hiptage benghalensis. The State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	"H. benghalensis reproduces from seeds. Plants begin producing seeds at about three years of age (Vitelli et al. 2009). In its native range, it flowers from February to April and fruits from April to May (Flora of China undated; Flora of Pakistan undated). In Australia, flowering can occur throughout the year, with a peak in flowering over spring and summer. Seeds are distinctive, with 3 papery wings of 2-5 cm long that float in the wind, particularly when released high in the forest canopy. Seeds are also dispersed by water. Near Mossman in Far North Queensland, seed density on the soil surface has been recorded at 39.2 seeds per square metre. Seed longevity is estimated to be less than two years (based on laboratory stored fruit). Fresh seeds are about 65% viable. At Mossman, the seed bank appears to be very transient and seeds do not persist in a moist environment (Vitelli et al. 2009). The plant can produce new roots from cut stems (Vitelli et al. 2009)."
	Global Invasive Species Database (2026) Species profile: Hiptage benghalensis. http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=87. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	"Propagation occurs via seeds or cuttings."
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Hiptage benghalensis does not typically reproduce by natural vegetative fragmentation in the wild; its primary natural mode of reproduction is by seed, although it can be propagated vegetatively under cultivation.

607	Minimum generative time (years)	3
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Vitelli, J. S., Madigan, B. A., Van Haaren, P. E., Setter, S., & Logan, P. (2009). Control of the invasive liana, Hiptage benghalensis. Weed Biology and Management, 9(1), 54-62	"Anecdotal evidence from the Mossman hiptage eradication control program suggests that the hiptage plants take 3 years from germination to reproductive maturity. Treating the plants prior to flowering (the peak flower production is September to February) would reduce seed production and minimize seed dispersal by wind and water."

701	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked areas)	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Global Invasive Species Database (2026) Species profile: Hiptage benghalensis. http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=87. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	"Propagation occurs via seeds or cuttings."
	Queensland Government. (2026). Weeds of Australia - Hiptage benghalensis. https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/hiptage_benghalensis.htm. [Accessed 5 Feb 2026]	"This species reproduces mainly by seed. The wings on the fruit enable them to be spread considerable distances by wind, especially when they are released from high in the forest canopy. The fruit may also be dispersed in dumped garden waste or float on water."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
702	**Propagules dispersed intentionally by people**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Whistler, W.A. (2000). Tropical Ornamentals: A Guide. Timber Press, Portland, OR	"Hiptage benghalensis, which lacks a widely recognized common name, is native from India to the Philippines but is widely if not commonly cultivated in the tropics for its attractive, fragrant flowers."
	Staples, G.W. & Herbst, D.R. (2005). A Tropical Garden Flora - Plants Cultivated in the Hawaiian Islands and Other Tropical Places. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, HI	"Hiptage is native from Sri Lanka and India through Southeast Asia and southern China to Taiwan and the Philippines. It is widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical gardens for its large, showy flowers and glossy leaves."
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	"Major Pathway/s: Herbal, Ornamental Dispersed by: Humans, Escapee"

703	**Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant**	**n**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	"Major Pathway/s: Herbal, Ornamental Dispersed by: Humans, Escapee"

704	**Propagules adapted to wind dispersal**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Daehler, C. C. & Baker, R. F. (2006). New Records of Naturalized and Naturalizing Plants Around Lyon Arboretum, Mānoa Valley, O'ahu. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 87: 3-18	"Although individual plants can cover very large areas by sprawling, the plant is also reproducing by seed, as evidenced by seedling around mature individuals. The seeds are wind-dispersed."
	Wu, Z.Y., Raven,P.H. & Hong, D.Y. (eds.). (2008). Flora of China. Vol. 11 (Oxalidaceae through Aceraceae). Science Press & Missouri Botanical Garden Press, Beijing & St. Louis	"Samara body shortly sericeous, wings glabrous, abaxial wing elliptic or obovate-lanceolate, 3.5-5(-7) × 1-1.6 cm, apex entire or retuse, lateral wings lanceolate-oblong, 1.5-3 cm, base of wing with 1 triangular-crested appendage."
	Csurhes, S. (2016). Invasive plant risk assessment. Hiptage. Hiptage benghalensis. The State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	"Seeds are distinctive, with 3 papery wings of 2-5 cm long that float in the wind, particularly when released high in the forest canopy."

705	**Propagules water dispersed**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Csurhes, S. (2016). Invasive plant risk assessment. Hiptage. Hiptage benghalensis. The State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	"Seeds are distinctive, with 3 papery wings of 2-5 cm long that float in the wind, particularly when released high in the forest canopy. Seeds are also dispersed by water. Near Mossman in Far North Queensland, seed density on the soil surface has been recorded at 39.2 seeds per square metre." ... "H. benghalensis prefers tropical and subtropical climates. It can persist in seasonally dry areas but tends to prefer moist, shady areas. Most naturalised populations are in closed forests and along the banks of waterways."

706	**Propagules bird dispersed**	**n**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Wu, Z.Y., Raven,P.H. & Hong, D.Y. (eds.). (2008). Flora of China. Vol. 11 (Oxalidaceae through Aceraceae). Science Press & Missouri Botanical Garden Press, Beijing & St. Louis	"Samara body shortly sericeous, wings glabrous, abaxial wing elliptic or obovate-lanceolate, 3.5-5(-7) × 1-1.6 cm, apex entire or retuse, lateral wings lanceolate-oblong, 1.5-3 cm, base of wing with 1 triangular-crested appendage." [Adapted for wind dispersal]

Qsn #	Question	Answer
707	**Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)**	**n**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Csurhes, S. (2016). Invasive plant risk assessment. Hiptage. Hiptage benghalensis. The State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	"Hiptage benghalensis is a vine-like shrub native to parts of Asia. It is occasionally cultivated as a garden ornamental. Its seeds are dispersed by wind and water."
	Flora of North America Editorial Committee. (2016). Flora of North America North of Mexico. Volume 12. Magnoliophyta: Vitaceae to Garryaceae. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford	"Samaras: upper central wing 37-45(-52) mm, 2 lower lateral wings 17-27 mm." [No means of external attachment]

708	**Propagules survive passage through the gut**	**n**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Csurhes, S. (2016). Invasive plant risk assessment. Hiptage. Hiptage benghalensis. The State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	"Hiptage benghalensis is a vine-like shrub native to parts of Asia. It is occasionally cultivated as a garden ornamental. Its seeds are dispersed by wind and water."
	Flora of North America Editorial Committee. (2016). Flora of North America North of Mexico. Volume 12. Magnoliophyta: Vitaceae to Garryaceae. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford	"Samaras: upper central wing 37-45(-52) mm, 2 lower lateral wings 17-27 mm." [Not fleshy fruited or adapted for frugivory]

801	**Prolific seed production (>1000/m2)**	**n**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Staples, G.W. & Herbst, D.R. (2005). A Tropical Garden Flora - Plants Cultivated in the Hawaiian Islands and Other Tropical Places. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, HI	"Frt breaking apart into 3 samaras, each 3-winged."
	Vitelli, J. S., Madigan, B. A., Van Haaren, P. E., Setter, S., & Logan, P. (2009). Control of the invasive liana, Hiptage benghalensis. Weed Biology and Management, 9(1), 54-62	"Hiptage was very abundant at Mossman and averaged 158 700 (SEM: 597) plants ha-1, irrespective of plant size (Table 2), with an additional surface seed load of 39.2 seeds m2."
	Wu, Z.Y., Raven,P.H. & Hong, D.Y. (eds.). (2008). Flora of China. Vol. 11 (Oxalidaceae through Aceraceae). Science Press & Missouri Botanical Garden Press, Beijing & St. Louis	"Samara body shortly sericeous, wings glabrous, abaxial wing elliptic or obovate-lanceolate, 3.5-5(-7) × 1-1.6 cm, apex entire or retuse, lateral wings lanceolate-oblong, 1.5-3 cm, base of wing with 1 triangular-crested appendage." [Relatively large fruit]

802	**Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Vitelli, J. S., Madigan, B. A., Van Haaren, P. E., Setter, S., & Logan, P. (2009). Control of the invasive liana, Hiptage benghalensis. Weed Biology and Management, 9(1), 54-62	[Less than 2 years, but possibly viable for more than 1 year] "A lack of hiptage seeds below the soil surface, a high germinability (>98%) of the viable seeds, a low viability (0%) of 2 year old, laboratory-stored fruit, and a seedling density of 0.1 seedlings m-2 12 months after a control program indicate that hiptage might have a short-term seed bank." ... "Germination and seedling recruitment have been observed after fruit fall in summer following summer rains (Logan P., 2007, personal communication). However, the results from this study, which show the lack of a seed bank below the soil surface, >98% germinability of the viable seed, and a seed longevity of <2 years (based on laboratory-stored fruit), are encouraging. The seed bank appears to be very transient and the seeds do not persist for long in a favorable moist environment. If any external seed input is eliminated, a hiptage infestation can be treated with minimal follow-up control."

803	**Well controlled by herbicides**	**y**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Weber, E. (2017). Invasive Plant Species of the World, 2nd Edition: A Reference Guide to Environmental Weeds. CABI Publishing, Wallingford, UK	"An effective method for mechanical control is cutting vines both at the ground level and as high as possible. This benefits trees as the vines will dry out. Cut stumps can be treated with herbicides such as glyphosate or a triclopyr/ picloram mixture to prevent regrowth. Foliar sprays with dicamba,"
	Motooka, P., Castro, L., Nelson, D., Nagai, G. & Ching,L. (2003). Weeds of Hawaii's Pastures and Natural Areas: An Identification and Management Guide. CTAHR, UH Manoa, Honolulu, HI	"Management: Very-low-volume basal bark applications of triclopyr killed 50% of treated plants. Survivors were plants with larger-diameter stems in which the treatment did not cover the circumference of the stem completely."
	Vitelli, J. S., Madigan, B. A., Van Haaren, P. E., Setter, S., & Logan, P. (2009). Control of the invasive liana, Hiptage benghalensis. Weed Biology and Management, 9(1), 54-62	"The liana, hiptage (Hiptage benghalensis), is currently invading the wet tropics of northern Queensland and remnant bushland in south-eastern Queensland, Australia.Trials using seven herbicides and three application methods (foliar, basal bark, and cut stump) were undertaken at a site in north Queensland (158 700 hiptage plants ha-1). The foliar-applied herbicides were only effective in controlling the hiptage seedlings. Of the foliar herbicides trialed, dicamba, fluroxypyr, and triclopyr/picloram controlled >75% of the treated seedlings. On the larger plants, the cut stump applications were more effective than the basal bark treatments. Kills of >95% were obtained when the plants were cut close to ground level (5 cm) and treated with herbicides that were mixed with diesel (fluroxypyr and triclopyr/picloram), with water (glyphosate), or were applied neat (picloram). The costings for the cut stump treatment of a hiptage infestation (85 000 plants ha-1), excluding labor, would be $A14 324 ha-1 using picloram and $A5294 ha-1 and $A2676 ha-1, respectively, using glyphosate and fluroxypyr. Foliar application using dicamba for seedling control would cost $A1830 ha-1.The costs range from 2-17 cents per plant depending on the treatment. A lack of hiptage seeds below the soil surface, a high germinability (>98%) of the viable seeds, a low viability (0%) of 2 year old, laboratory-stored fruit, and a seedling density of 0.1 seedlings m-2 12 months after a control program indicate that hiptage might have a short-term seed bank. Protracted recolonization from the seed bank would therefore be unlikely after established seed-producing plants have been controlled."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
804	**Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation, cultivation, or fire**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Murphy, M., & Yogi, D. (2026). BIISC Plant Pono Specialist - Invasive Plant Prevention. personal communication. 04 February	"Another encouraging observation, shared by the property owners, is that when vines are cut at the base, they reportedly die even if portions remain in the canopy." [In contrast to other reports of resprouting following cutting]
	Staples, G.W. & Herbst, D.R. (2005). A Tropical Garden Flora - Plants Cultivated in the Hawaiian Islands and Other Tropical Places. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, HI	"To contain its size and to promote new growth and flowering, hiptage should be severely pruned at least once a year."
	Vitelli, J. S., Madigan, B. A., Van Haaren, P. E., Setter, S., & Logan, P. (2009). Control of the invasive liana, Hiptage benghalensis. Weed Biology and Management, 9(1), 54-62	[Capable of resprouting, even with herbicide treatment] "The hiptage plants in the Mossman trial were cut 5 cm above ground level. Other researchers (Carmona et al. 2001; Vitelli et al. 2008) have experienced a decline in efficacy (□90% reduction in plant mortality) the higher the plants are cut above ground level prior to the application of the herbicides. Our study also showed that ~10% of the cut hiptage stems resprouted roots from the hanging stem. In order to prevent this, a second cut at shoulder height (~1.5 m above ground level) is recommended. An added benefit of a second cut would be to reduce the availability of hanging dead lianas to be used as trellises for new liana sprouts (Gerwing 2001; Perez-Salicrup et al. 2001).The cut stem section (ramet) would need to be removed from the area or treated with a herbicide (both cut stem surfaces to be soaked in a herbicide mix for 30 s) to prevent the stem from reshooting."

805	**Effective natural enemies present locally (e.g. introduced biocontrol agents)**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown in the Hawaiian Islands.

Summary of Risk Traits:

Hiptage benghalensis, commonly known as hiptage, is a vigorous woody vine native to tropical Asia. It is often grown as an ornamental because of its showy, fragrant flowers, which are typically white to pale pink with yellow markings and arranged in hanging clusters. The plant has glossy green leaves and produces distinctive winged seeds that help it spread by wind. In landscapes, hiptage has been valued for its fast growth, dense foliage, and ability to cover fences, trellises, and arbors, making it a popular choice in gardens where a lush, flowering climber is desired.

In Hawai'i, however, hiptage poses a significant environmental risk. It is naturalized on Kaua'i and O'ahu and has also been detected on Hawai'i Island, where it may still be an eradication target. Hiptage grows rapidly and can smother native vegetation by forming thick mats that block sunlight and weigh down trees and shrubs. Its ability to produce large numbers of wind-dispersed seeds makes it especially difficult to control once established. If left unmanaged, hiptage can spread into natural areas, threatening native forests and the unique plants and ecosystems they support.

High Risk / Undesirable Traits
• Naturalized beyond native range (e.g., Hawaii, Florida, Queensland)
• Environmental weed – invasive, smothers native vegetation
• Climbing/smothering liana – forms dense thickets
• Self-compatible
• Wind-dispersed seeds
• Tolerates pruning/mutilation
• Repeatedly introduced as ornamental/medicinal plant

Low Risk Traits
• Not toxic, allelopathic, or parasitic
• Low seed production (few seeds per fruit)
• Herbicide-sensitive