Taxon: Philodendron erubescens K.Koch & Augustin **Family:** Araceae

Common Name(s): blushing philodendron
red leaf philodendron
red-leaf philodendron

Synonym(s):

Assessor: Chuck Chimera **Status:** Approved **End Date:** 6 Oct 2026

WRA Score: 8.0 **Designation:** H(HPWRA) **Rating:** High Risk

Keywords: Climber, Naturalized, Toxic/Allergenic, Limited Seed Set, Spreads Vegetatively

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	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
303	Agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed	y = 2*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
304	Environmental weed	y = 2*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
305	Congeneric weed	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	y
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	y = 1, n = -1	y
405	Toxic to animals	y = 1, n = 0	y
406	Host for recognized pests and pathogens		
407	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	y = 1, n = 0	y
408	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems	y = 1, n = 0	n
409	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle	y = 1, n = 0	y

Qsn #	Question	Answer Option	Answer
410	Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions (or limestone conditions if not a volcanic island)	y = 1, n = 0	y
411	Climbing or smothering growth habit	y = 1, n = 0	y
412	Forms dense thickets		
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	n
605	Requires specialist pollinators	y = -1, n = 0	y
606	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation	y = 1, n = -1	y
607	Minimum generative time (years)		
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	n
705	Propagules water dispersed		
706	Propagules bird dispersed		
707	Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)	y = 1, n = -1	n
708	Propagules survive passage through the gut		
801	Prolific seed production (>1000/m2)	y = 1, n = -1	n
802	Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)	y = 1, n = -1	n
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**
	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	[No evidence] "Philodendron erubescens was described from horticultural material believed to be from Colombia. No modern collections of wild plants have been seen. Philodendrons with colored foliage are quite popular, and P. erubescens is one that has gained a niche in the foliage plant market. The stems branch and have rather short internodes, so they are relatively compact. The new leaves emerge bright red and gradually become a deep glossy green. As a container plant, P. erubescens can be trained to grow on a tree fern log, pole, or redwood slab stood upright in a pot, and in the garden it can be trained up a tree trunk, wall, or trellis. Several cultivars in the trade are believed to descend from P. erubescens; one sold locally is 'Red Emerald', a vigorous selection with claret-colored stems, red petioles, and glossy, dark green leaves to 16" long with red veins on the underside."
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Philodendron erubescens is not highly domesticated; despite its popularity in the ornamental trade and numerous cultivars selected for leaf coloration, it retains wild-type reproductive and vegetative propagation capacity with no history of breeding for reduced weediness traits.

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 5 Oct 2026]	"The native range of this species is Colombia. It is a climber and grows primarily in the wet tropical biome."

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 5 Oct 2026]	"The native range of this species is Colombia. It is a climber and grows primarily in the wet tropical biome."

203	**Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)**	**n**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	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 Oct 2026]	"It is a climber and grows primarily in the wet tropical biome."
	NC State Extension. (2026). Philodendron erubescens. https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/philodendron-erubescens/. [Accessed 5 Oct 2026]	"USDA Plant Hardiness Zone: 10a, 10b, 11a, 11b, 12a, 12b"
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Philodendron erubescens is native to Colombia and occurs in wet tropical rainforest habitat, with at least one recorded elevation of ~520 m a.s.l. (POWO); it is widely described in horticultural literature as a lowland tropical species requiring warm, frost-free, humid conditions

204	**Native or naturalized in regions with tropical or subtropical climates**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Gallaher, T.J., Brock, K., Kennedy, B.H., Imada, C.T., Imada, K., & Walvoord, N. (2026). Plants of Hawai'i. http://www.plantsofhawaii.org. [Accessed 5 Oct 2026]	"Island Status Kaua'i Naturalized O'ahu Only found in cultivation Maui Naturalized Hawai'i Potentially naturalizing "
	Faccenda, K., Arthur, K., Thomas, M. K., Oppenheimer, H., Ross, M. C., Starr, F., Starr, K., Tribble, C. M., & Starmer, J. (2025). Notes, nuances, and novelties in the Hawaiian flora from Herbarium Pacificum. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 163: 149-228	"Philodendron erubescens was previously published as naturalized on East Maui by Oppenheimer (2007) and has now been found on West Maui. Philodendron erubescens is also naturalized on Kaua'i (Imada 2019). Material examined. MAUI: West Maui, Lāhainā Distr, Honokahua, locally naturalized sprawling and climbing in secondary alien forest, apparently spreading from discarded landscaping waste, 91 m, 16 Apr 2023, H. Oppenheimer et al. H42335; West Maui, ca 7 km NW of Waihe'e along hwy, edge of road, climbing up cliff ca 10 m, dominant on this hillside, only seen in this one location on road, 300 m, 20.969875, -156.539621, 22 Oct 2022, K Faccenda 2740.5"
	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 Oct 2026]	"The native range of this species is Colombia. It is a climber and grows primarily in the wet tropical biome."

205	**Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	"Philodendron erubescens K.Koch & Augustin Araceae Total N° of Refs: 6 Habit: Vine Preferred Climate/s: Mediterranean, Tropical Origin: S Am Major Pathway/s: Ornamental Dispersed by: Humans, Escapee References: United States of America-N-301, United States of America-N-839, Galpagos Islands-CN-1157, United States of America-N-1292, Global-CD-1611, United States of America-N-2092."
	GBIF Secretariat (2026). Philodendron erubescens K.Koch & Augustin. GBIF Backbone Taxonomy. https://www.gbif.org/taxon/4G82S. [Accessed 5 Oct 2026]	"Recorded as introduced in 4 countries or islands" [Ecuador, Seychelles, Hawaii]

Qsn #	Question	Answer
301	**Naturalized beyond native range**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Oppenheimer, H. (2007). New plant records from Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, Maui, and Hawaiʻi for 2006. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 96:17-34	[East Maui] "Philodendron erubescens K. Koch & Augustin New island record Previously reported as sparingly naturalized on Kauaʻi (Flynn & Lorence 2002: 14-15), this climbing aroid is common along the Hāna Highway on East Maui. It can be found between Huelo and Kīpahulu in several areas, climbing trees or sprawling on the ground, sometimes forming dense mats. It seems to be spreading from pieces of stem; flowers become fragrant in the evening but no fruit has been observed to date. Material examined. MAUI: East Maui, Hāna Distr, vicinity of Haipuaʻena Stream, 183 m, 7 Oct 2006, Oppenheimer & Duvall H100607."
	Flynn, T. & Lorence, D.H. (2002). Additions to the flora of the Hawaiian Islands. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 69: 14-16	[Kaua'i] "Philodendron erubescens K. Koch & Augustin New naturalized record This species as well as the following species represent new naturalized state records for the genus Philodendron Schott. P. erubescens has become sparingly naturalized along Puʻu Road in Kalāheo. Found in secondary vegetation along the roadside, it has presumably established from discarded garden clippings and seems to be spreading at least vegetatively. It is quite conspicuous in the Puʻu Road area where it climbs into the tree canopy and the bright pinkish-bronze new leaves and bracts are readily visible. Material examined. KAUAʻI: Kōloa Distr., Kalāheo, along Puʻu Road ca 0.8 mi from the northernmost junction with Papalina Road, secondary vegetation of Syzygium cuminii, Leucaena leucocephala, Ficus microcarpa, Schefflera actinophylla, Syngonium sp., and Scindapsus aureus, ca 189 m, 14 Nov 2000, T. Flynn 6761."
	Faccenda, K., Arthur, K., Thomas, M. K., Oppenheimer, H., Ross, M. C., Starr, F., Starr, K., Tribble, C. M., & Starmer, J. (2025). Notes, nuances, and novelties in the Hawaiian flora from Herbarium Pacificum. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 163: 149-228	[West Maui] "Philodendron erubescens K.Koch & Augustin Range extension Philodendron erubescens was previously published as naturalized on East Maui by Oppenheimer (2007) and has now been found on West Maui. Philodendron erubescens is also naturalized on Kauaʻi (Imada 2019). Material examined. MAUI: West Maui, Lāhainā Distr, Honokahua, locally naturalized sprawling and climbing in secondary alien forest, apparently spreading from discarded landscaping waste, 91 m, 16 Apr 2023, H. Oppenheimer et al. H42335; West Maui, ca 7 km NW of Waiheʻe along hwy, edge of road, climbing up cliff ca 10 m, dominant on this hillside, only seen in this one location on road, 300 m, 20.969875, -156.539621, 22 Oct 2022, K Faccenda 2740.5."

302	**Garden/amenity/disturbance weed**	**n**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	While P. erubescens has a history of being introduced outside its native range and has become naturalized in places like Hawaii, it has not been formally categorized as a garden, amenity, or disturbance weed by the standard assessment frameworks. Its recorded status is more accurately described as a naturalized introduction in the regions where it has escaped cultivation.

303	**Agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed**	**n**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	No evidence

304	**Environmental weed**	**n**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	No evidence

305	Congeneric weed	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	"Philodendron aurantiifolium ... Weed of: Bananas, Orchards & Plantations References: Costa Rica-A-1513." ... "Philodendron inaequilaterum ... Weed of: Bananas, Orchards & Plantations References: Costa Rica-A-1513."
	van der Burg, W. J., De Freitas, J., Debrot, A. O., & Lotz, L. A. P. (2012). Naturalised and invasive alien plant species in the Caribbean Netherlands: status, distribution, threats, priorities and recommendations. PRI report 437. Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies (IMARES) report C185/11, Wageningen, The Netherlands	"Philodendron giganteum is present on Saba and St. Eustatius (Howard 1979 vol 3). On The Mountain (Mt Scenery, Saba) and the Quill, St Eustatius (Boldingh 1909). Distributed in Tropical America and is native to Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts, St. Vincent (Broome et al. 2011). On Saba it massively invades abandoned farmland on the slopes, smothering all other vegetation and entering the natural vegetation (team obs., Figure 28)."

401	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	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 Oct 2026]	[No evidence] "Stem scandent, high up, rooting at the internodes and reddish green, 3-8 cm long, 1 cm thick. Cataphylls fleshy, reddish, acutely 2-keeled dorsally, 7-10 cm long. LEAVES: Petiole flattened on the upper surface, especially towards the apex, terete below, 15-25 cm long, 7-10 mm thick; blade herbaceous, elongate ovate-triangular sagittate, 15-25 cm long, 12-18 cm wide, posterior lobes semiorbicular or semiovate, separated by a subtriangular or parabolic sinus; anterior lobe triangular, narrowing gradually towards the apex, the apex itself suddenly contracted, somewhat cuspidate-acuminate, 4 times longer than the posterior lobes; 4 basal primary lateral joined into short posterior ribs, 4 veins from the midrib spreading at an obtuse angle, secondary veins numerous, oblique between the primary veins. INFLORESCENCE: Peduncle 6-7 cm long. Spathe dark purplish externally, internally crimson, cucullate-boatshaped; tube ovoid, 7-8 cm long, blade shortly ovate, 7 cm long, 4-5 cm wide, apiculate for 5 mm. Spadix subtended by a 3 mm long stipe, female zone 5 mm long, 1.5 mm thick, male zone 10 cm long, thickened above the somewhat constricted base. Pistil obovoid, 8-locular, style discoid, measuring ca. 1.5 mm. Male flowers usually triandrous."

402	Allelopathic	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. No evidence found

403	Parasitic	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	"Climber; stem internodes long." [Araceae. No evidence]

Qsn #	Question	Answer
404	Unpalatable to grazing animals	y
	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	"Chewing the leaves of philodendrons results in painful burning and swelling of the mouth parts because of the oxalates. Contact dermatitis also occurs. The insoluble oxalates do not produce systemic poisoning in humans. Cross sensitivity was observed. Allergic contact sensitivity."
	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	"Philodendrons contain microscopic crystals of calcium oxalate and other toxins that cause intense burning, swelling, and paralysis of the oral tissues when the leaves or stems are chewed or eaten."
	NC State Extension. (2026). Philodendron erubescens. https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/philodendron-erubescens/. [Accessed 5 Oct 2026]	"Resistance To Challenges: Deer Humidity Rabbits"
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Philodendron erubescens is unpalatable and potentially toxic to grazing/browsing animals because its tissues contain abundant insoluble calcium oxalate crystals (raphides). When plant tissue is chewed, these crystals can cause intense irritation of the mouth and gastrointestinal tract, which would discourage herbivory.

405	Toxic to animals	y
	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	"Chewing the leaves of philodendrons results in painful burning and swelling of the mouth parts because of the oxalates. Contact dermatitis also occurs. The insoluble oxalates do not produce systemic poisoning in humans. Cross sensitivity was observed. Allergic contact sensitivity."
	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	"Philodendrons contain microscopic crystals of calcium oxalate and other toxins that cause intense burning, swelling, and paralysis of the oral tissues when the leaves or stems are chewed or eaten."
	NC State Extension. (2026). Philodendron erubescens. https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/philodendron-erubescens/. [Accessed 5 Oct 2026]	"Problems: Contact Dermatitis Poisonous to Humans Problem for Cats Problem for Children Problem for Dogs"
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Philodendron erubescens contains insoluble calcium oxalate crystals in its leaves, stems, and sap. Ingestion or chewing causes oral irritation, pain and swelling of the mouth/tongue/lips, excessive drooling, and difficulty swallowing in animals; the species and close congeners are specifically documented as toxic to dogs, cats, and horses.

406	Host for recognized pests and pathogens	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Janse, J. D., and Ruissen, M. A. (1988). Characterization and classification of Erwinia chrysanthemi strains from several hosts in The Netherlands. Phytopathology 78:800-808	"E. chrysanthemi strains were tested for pathogenicity on K. blossfeldiana 'Calypso,' P. erubescens 'Emerald King,' S. tuberosum 'Bintje,'and Z. mays 'LG 11.' All strains were pathogenic for corn and potato. Kalanchoe, cichory, and potato (KCP) strains were not pathogenic on Philodendron; the other strains (from greenhouse crops and corn) were pathogenic."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	EPPO. (2026). Philodendron (1PIOG) . https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/1PIOG/pests. [Accessed 6 Oct 2026]	"Erwinia chrysanthemi (ERWICH) Host Opogona sacchari (OPOGSC) Host Phyllosticta colocasiicola (as Aroideae) (PHYSCC) Host Phytophthora colocasiae (as Aroideae) (PHYTOO) Host Pratylenchus coffeae (as Aroideae) (PRATCO) Host Pseudaulacaspis pentagona (PSEAPE) Host Pythium myriotylum (as Aroideae) (PYTHMY) Host Radopholus similis (as Aroideae) (RADOSI) Host Radopholus similis (RADOSI) Host Tetranychus mexicanus (as Araceae) (TETRME) Host Vasculomyces xanthosomae (as Aroideae) (VASCXA) Host Xanthomonas axonopodis pv. dieffenbachiae (as Aroideae) (XANTDF) Host"
	NC State Extension. (2026). Philodendron erubescens. https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/philodendron-erubescens/. [Accessed 6 Oct 2026]	"Insects, Diseases, and Other Plant Problems: Monitor for spider mites, mealybugs, aphids, and scale insects. Overwatering can cause root rot. It is also susceptible to leaf spot diseases." [Widespread, generic pests]

407	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	y
	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	"Chewing the leaves of philodendrons results in painful burning and swelling of the mouth parts because of the oxalates. Contact dermatitis also occurs. The insoluble oxalates do not produce systemic poisoning in humans. Cross sensitivity was observed. Allergic contact sensitivity."
	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	"Philodendrons contain microscopic crystals of calcium oxalate and other toxins that cause intense burning, swelling, and paralysis of the oral tissues when the leaves or stems are chewed or eaten."
	NC State Extension. (2026). Philodendron erubescens. https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/philodendron-erubescens/. [Accessed 5 Oct 2026]	"Poisonous to Humans: Poison Severity: Low Poison Symptoms: If ingested, mouth and stomach irritation. Sap may cause skin irritation Poison Toxic Principle: Calcium oxalate crystals Causes Contact Dermatitis: Yes Poison Part: Flowers Fruits Leaves Roots Sap/Juice Seeds Stems"
	Hancock, J. (2026). The New Complete Guide to Houseplants: Expert Houseplant Growing Advice for Everyone. Cool Springs Press	"TOXICITY I'm considered poisonous. Look at me but don't taste me!"

408	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems	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 Oct 2026]	"It is a climber and grows primarily in the wet tropical biome." [Philodendron erubescens is a succulent, evergreen climbing vine native to consistently wet tropical forest, with no fire-promoting fuel characteristics.]

Qsn #	Question	Answer
409	**Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	bushgardenco (2026). Philodendron erubescens Red Emerald – Moss Pole. https://www.bushgardenco.com. [Accessed 6 Oct 2026]	"A lush, decorative foliage plant with large, oval, leathery leaves and vibrant red stems, Philodendron erubescens Red Emerald has a distinctly exotic, tropical feel. A great low-maintenance option and shade tolerant into the bargain."
	NC State Extension. (2026). Philodendron erubescens. https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/philodendron-erubescens/. [Accessed 6 Oct 2026]	"Light: Dappled Sunlight (Shade through upper canopy all day) Partial Shade (Direct sunlight only part of the day, 2-6 hours)"
	Treleaf. (2026). The Essential Guide to Caring for a Philodendron Erubescens. https://treleaf.shop/blogs/news/the-essential-guide-to-caring-for-a-philodendron-erubescens. [Accessed 6 Oct 2026]	"Philodendron Erubescens prefers bright indirect sunlight, but can tolerate low light conditions, making it a great option for rooms with limited natural light. "
	Sukarya, D. G., & Witono, J. R. (Eds.). (2024). 3500 plant species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia (Ebook ed.). PT Sukarya & Sukarya Pandetama	"Scientific name: Philodendron erubescens K.Koch & Augustin, Family: Araceae, Distribution: Central and South America, Habitat: Shady places, tropical rainforests,"

410	**Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions (or limestone conditions if not a volcanic island)**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	NC State Extension. (2026). Philodendron erubescens. https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/philodendron-erubescens/. [Accessed 6 Oct 2026]	"Soil Texture: High Organic Matter Loam (Silt) Soil pH: Acid (<6.0) Neutral (6.0-8.0) Soil Drainage: Good Drainage Moist"
	The Spruce. (2026). How to Grow and Care for Philodendron Erubescen. https://www.thespruce.com/grow-phildendron-erubescens-indoors-1902575. [Accessed 6 Oct 2026]	"Soil Type Well-drained, loamy Soil pH Neutral, acidic"

411	**Climbing or smothering growth habit**	**y**
	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	"Climber; stem internodes long."
	Oppenheimer, H. (2007). New plant records from Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Maui, and Hawai'i for 2006. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 96:17-34	"It can be found between Huelo and Kīpahulu in several areas, climbing trees or sprawling on the ground, sometimes forming dense mats. It seems to be spreading from pieces of stem; flowers become fragrant in the evening but no fruit has been observed to date."
	Flynn, T. & Lorence, D.H. (2002). Additions to the flora of the Hawaiian Islands. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 69: 14-16	"It is quite conspicuous in the Pu'u Road area where it climbs into the tree canopy and the bright pinkish-bronze new leaves and bracts are readily visible"
	Faccenda, K., Arthur, K., Thomas, M. K., Oppenheimer, H., Ross, M. C., Starr, F., Starr, K., Tribble, C. M., & Starmer, J. (2025). Notes, nuances, and novelties in the Hawaiian flora from Herbarium Pacificum. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 163: 149-228	"West Maui, Lāhainā Distr, Honokahua, locally naturalized sprawling and climbing in secondary alien forest, apparently spreading from discarded landscaping waste"

412	**Forms dense thickets**	

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Oppenheimer, H. (2007). New plant records from Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, Maui, and Hawaiʻi for 2006. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 96:17-34	"It can be found between Huelo and Kīpahulu in several areas, climbing trees or sprawling on the ground, sometimes forming dense mats." [Dense mats could potentially exclude other vegetation, but typically climbs and could smother trees and other plants]

501	Aquatic	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 Oct 2026]	"It is a climber and grows primarily in the wet tropical biome."

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 Oct 2026]	Araceae

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 Oct 2026]	Araceae

504	Geophyte (herbaceous with underground storage organs -- bulbs, corms, or tubers)	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	"Climber; stem internodes long."

601	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	IUCN. (2026). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2026-1. https://www.iucnredlist.org/. [Accessed 6 Oct 2026]	No evidence

Qsn #	Question	Answer
602	Produces viable seed	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Oppenheimer, H. (2007). New plant records from Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, Maui, and Hawaiʻi for 2006. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 96:17-34	"It seems to be spreading from pieces of stem; flowers become fragrant in the evening but no fruit has been observed to date."
	Sukarya, D. G., & Witono, J. R. (Eds.). (2024). 3500 plant species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia (Ebook ed.). PT Sukarya & Sukarya Pandetama	"unisexual; fruit, berry, sub-cylindrical to obovoid, white, red orange; seeds, tiny to fairly large, ovoid oblong to ellipsoid, Uses: Ornamental plant, Propagation: Stem cutting and seed"

Qsn #	Question	Answer
603	Hybridizes naturally	
	Source(s)	Notes
	Urman, C., Sakuragui, C. M., Camelo, M. D. C., & Coelho, M. A. N. (2026). Araceae in the living collection of the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden Research Institute. Rodriguésia, 77, e00832025	"Hybrid species of Philodendron erubescens, cultivated for ornamental purposes." [Unknown if natural hybrids occur]

Qsn #	Question	Answer
604	Self-compatible or apomictic	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Chouteau, M., Gibernau, M., & Barabé, D. (2008). Relationships between floral characters, pollination mechanisms, life forms, and habitats in Araceae. Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, 156(1), 29-42	"Table 1. Climatic region, life form, growth mode, pollinator, floral traits measured, and self-pollination capacity for 54 aroid species in 32 genera" [Philodendron erubescens - Self-pollination capacity = No]

Qsn #	Question	Answer
605	Requires specialist pollinators	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Chouteau, M., Gibernau, M., & Barabé, D. (2008). Relationships between floral characters, pollination mechanisms, life forms, and habitats in Araceae. Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, 156(1), 29-42	"Table 1. Climatic region, life form, growth mode, pollinator, floral traits measured, and self-pollination capacity for 54 aroid species in 32 genera" [Philodendron erubescens pollinated by Beetles]

Qsn #	Question	Answer
606	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Flynn, T. & Lorence, D.H. (2002). Additions to the flora of the Hawaiian Islands. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 69: 14-16	"Philodendron erubescens K. Koch & Augustin New naturalized record This species as well as the following species represent new naturalized state records for the genus Philodendron Schott. P. erubescens has become sparingly naturalized along Puʻu Road in Kaläheo. Found in secondary vegetation along the roadside, it has presumably established from discarded garden clippings and seems to be spreading at least vegetatively. "

Qsn #	Question	Answer
607	Minimum generative time (years)	
	Source(s)	Notes
	Oppenheimer, H. (2007). New plant records from Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, Maui, and Hawaiʻi for 2006. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 96:17-34	"It seems to be spreading from pieces of stem; flowers become fragrant in the evening but no fruit has been observed to date." [Ability to spread vegetatively and presumed absent or reduced seed set in Hawaii may make this question irrelevant]

Qsn #	Question	Answer
701	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked areas)	y

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Faccenda, K., Arthur, K., Thomas, M. K., Oppenheimer, H., Ross, M. C., Starr, F., Starr, K., Tribble, C. M., & Starmer, J. (2025). Notes, nuances, and novelties in the Hawaiian flora from Herbarium Pacificum. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 163: 149-228	[Spread by discarded garden waste] "Philodendron erubescens was previously published as naturalized on East Maui by Oppenheimer (2007) and has now been found on West Maui. Philodendron erubescens is also naturalized on Kaua'i (Imada 2019). Material examined. MAUI: West Maui, Lāhainā Distr, Honokahua, locally naturalized sprawling and climbing in secondary alien forest, apparently spreading from discarded landscaping waste, 91 m, 16 Apr 2023, H. Oppenheimer et al. H42335; West Maui, ca 7 km NW of Waihe'e along hwy, edge of road, climbing up cliff ca 10 m, dominant on this hillside, only seen in this one location on road, 300 m, 20.969875, -156.539621, 22 Oct 2022, K Faccenda 2740.5"

702	Propagules dispersed intentionally by people	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	"Major Pathway/s: Ornamental Dispersed by: Humans, Escapee"
	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	"Philodendrons with colored foliage are quite popular, and P. erubescens is one that has gained a niche in the foliage plant market. The stems branch and have rather short internodes, so they are relatively compact. The new leaves emerge bright red and gradually become a deep glossy green."

703	Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Oppenheimer, H. (2007). New plant records from Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Maui, and Hawai'i for 2006. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 96:17-34	"It seems to be spreading from pieces of stem; flowers become fragrant in the evening but no fruit has been observed to date." [No evidence. Limited or absent seed production in the Hawaiian Islands would minimize risk of any produce contamination]
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	"Major Pathway/s: Ornamental Dispersed by: Humans, Escapee

704	Propagules adapted to wind dispersal	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Sukarya, D. G., & Witono, J. R. (Eds.). (2024). 3500 plant species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia (Ebook ed.). PT Sukarya & Sukarya Pandetama	[Fruit, if produced, would be presumably consumed and seeds dispersed by frugivores] "fruit, berry, sub-cylindrical to obovoid, white, red orange; seeds, tiny to fairly large, ovoid oblong to ellipsoid,"

705	Propagules water dispersed	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Oppenheimer, H. (2007). New plant records from Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Maui, and Hawai'i for 2006. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 96:17-34	"It seems to be spreading from pieces of stem; flowers become fragrant in the evening but no fruit has been observed to date." [Could possibly be spread by vegetative fragments in riparian areas, but no direct evidence has been found to date]

706	Propagules bird dispersed	
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Sugden, A. M. (1982). Long-distance dispersal, isolation, and the cloud forest flora of the Serranía de Macuira, Guajira, Colombia. Biotropica, 14(3): 208-219	[Presumably bird dispersed, but fruit and seed production may be limited or absent in the Hawaiian Islands] "Appendix. Notes on the propagules and their dispersal. The mechanisms stated here are the means considered most likely for the introduction, by long-distance dispersal, of each species to the Macuira cloud forest." [Philodendron erubescens. Fruit a berry. dispersed by birds internally]

707	Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Sugden, A. M. (1982). Long-distance dispersal, isolation, and the cloud forest flora of the Serranía de Macuira, Guajira, Colombia. Biotropica, 14(3): 208-219	"Philodendron erubescens. Fruit a berry" [No evidence. If produced, seeds likely to be birds or other frugivores]

708	Propagules survive passage through the gut	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Sugden, A. M. (1982). Long-distance dispersal, isolation, and the cloud forest flora of the Serranía de Macuira, Guajira, Colombia. Biotropica, 14(3): 208-219	[Presumably yes if fruit and seeds are produced. Limited or absent fruiting and seeding in Hawaii may eliminate this mode of dispersal] "Appendix. Notes on the propagules and their dispersal. The mechanisms stated here are the means considered most likely for the introduction, by long-distance dispersal, of each species to the Macuira cloud forest." [Philodendron erubescens. Fruit a berry. dispersed by birds internally]

801	Prolific seed production (>1000/m2)	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Urman, C., Sakuragui, C. M., Camelo, M. D. C., & Coelho, M. A. N. (2026). Araceae in the living collection of the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden Research Institute. Rodriguésia, 77, e00832025	"Fruit not observed." [Seed production may be rare in cultivation, or outside native range]
	Oppenheimer, H. (2007). New plant records from Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, Maui, and Hawaiʻi for 2006. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 96:17-34	"It seems to be spreading from pieces of stem; flowers become fragrant in the evening but no fruit has been observed to date." [Seed set in Hawaii may be limited or absent]

802	Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Oppenheimer, H. (2007). New plant records from Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, Maui, and Hawaiʻi for 2006. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 96:17-34	"It seems to be spreading from pieces of stem; flowers become fragrant in the evening but no fruit has been observed to date." [Propagule bank unlikely to be formed in Hawaiian Islands, where fruit and seed production may be rare or absent]

803	Well controlled by herbicides	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Allonsy, A. (2026). How to Kill a Philodendron. http://homeguides.sfgate.com/kill-philodendron-27558.html. [Accessed 6 Oct 2026]	[General description. Herbicides, if necessary, provide effective control] "You may need to kill your philodendrons if they overwhelm their surroundings, contract disease or if you simply no longer want them." ... "Foliar Spray" ... herbicide application is a fastacting way to kill the plant and ensure it does not come back." ... "Mix a 2-percent solution of glyphosate herbicide with diesel fuel or kerosene in a spray bottle. Products that contain glyphosate are sold with varying concentrations, so read the product label carefully for specific mixing instructions. Use a small spray bottle to kill a small philodendron houseplant, or a garden sprayer if treating a dense patch of large philodendron bush plants, such as lacy tree philodendron (Philodendron bipinnatifidum)." ... "Spray the herbicide solution directly onto the leaves of the philodendron, being careful not to target surrounding plants. The kerosene or diesel fuel helps to fully coat the leaves and doesn't drip off as readily as herbicide mixed with water; the blue marking dye makes it easy to distinguish leaves that you already sprayed." ... Cut Stem Application. 1. Prepare a 18- to 21 percent solution of glyphosate herbicide mixed with kerosene or diesel fuel in a small, disposable bowl. Add blue marking dye, if desired, but it's not as necessary with this type of application. 2. Cut thick stemmed philodendrons, such as the larger, tree-like cut-leaf philodendron (Philodendron bipinnatifidum), with lopping shears or a pruning saw, leaving an 8- to 12-inch stem protruding from the ground. 3. Paint the cut tip of the philodendron stems with the herbicide solution, using a small household paintbrush. Paint the stems within one hour of cutting because fresh-cut stems are better able to absorb the herbicide into the root system. 4. Paint the outside of the remaining stem with the herbicide solution, providing a greater surface area through which the herbicide absorbs into the roots. 5. Allow a few days for the herbicide to take effect, in which the plant slowly"

804	Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation, cultivation, or fire	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Flynn, T. & Lorence, D.H. (2002). Additions to the flora of the Hawaiian Islands. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 69: 14-16	"Found in secondary vegetation along the roadside, it has presumably established from discarded garden clippings and seems to be spreading at least vegetatively." [Likely tolerate repeated cutting if able to spread vegatatively]
	The Spruce. (2026). How to Grow and Care for Philodendron Erubescen. https://www.thespruce.com/grow-phildendron-erubescens-indoors-1902575. [Accessed 6 Oct 2026]	"Philodendrons don't need to be pruned often, but they can sometimes get a little too large for their space or become long and leggy. The best time of the year to prune P. erubescens is during the spring or fall, though you can remove yellow leaves or trim thin growth at any time of year. "
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Philodendron erubescens is readily propagated from stem cuttings, with stem sections capable of producing roots and new shoots. This demonstrates considerable tolerance of physical damage and fragmentation. It is also extensively cultivated and responds well to pruning and propagation

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

Summary of Risk Traits:

High-Risk Traits
Found in tropical/subtropical climates
Naturalized beyond its native range (Hawaii, Ecuador, Seychelles)
Naturalized on Kaua'i and Maui, with potential naturalization on Hawai'i Island
Related Philodendron species are documented weeds
Unpalatable to grazing animals (calcium oxalate crystals)
Toxic to animals
Causes allergies/toxic to humans (contact dermatitis, oral irritation)
Shade tolerant
Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions
Climbing/smothering growth habit, sometimes forming dense mats
Produces viable seed (rarely or absent in the Hawaiian Islands)
Reproduces by vegetative fragmentation (spreads from discarded stem/garden clippings)
Dispersed unintentionally via garden waste
Dispersed intentionally by people (popular ornamental)
Tolerates and benefits from cutting/cultivation (readily propagates from stem sections)

Low-Risk Traits
Narrow climate suitability (limited to wet tropical biome)
Not a documented agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed
Not a documented environmental weed
No spines, thorns, or burrs
Does not create a fire hazard
Not self-compatible (requires outcrossing)
Requires specialist beetle pollinators
Not a produce contaminant
Not wind dispersed
Not externally dispersed by animals
Not a prolific seed producer
No persistent seed/propagule bank
Well controlled by herbicides