

Barbados Gooseberry

Pereskia aculeata



**Do not
plant this
in your yard!**



Photo: BIISC



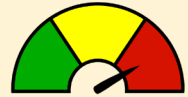
Photo: BIISC



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Pereskia was intentionally introduced to Hawai'i and despite the sharp spines, is currently sold in nurseries. Gardens have been abandoned due to the overwhelming invasion of this plant.

If you have this plant on your property, the Big Island Invasive Species Committee will control it at no cost to you.



High Risk

Description:

Woody climbing shrub or vine that can grow more than 30 ft tall. Younger stems have hooked thorns and older stems have clusters of woody spines.

Flower:

White or yellowish flowers grow in clusters and have a strong scent.

Leaves:

Alternately arranged leaves are often clustered towards the tips of the branches. Leaves are somewhat fleshy, similar to cactus.

Fruit:

Orange fruits with sharp thorns and many seeds inside.

Impacts and Harm:

Stems and detached leaves from *Pereskia* can stay alive and form roots months after removal from the parent plant. Every part of the plant is covered in sharp thorns, making it extremely difficult to control. It adapts to different environmental conditions, so it can easily invade new areas.

Plant this instead:



Bougainvillea (Bougainvillea sp.)