

## **GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE**

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: Pittosporum viridiflorum

## Pittosporum viridiflorum

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Rosales	Pittosporaceae

Common name cape cheesewood (English), cape pittosporum (English), spoor (English, St.

Helena)

**Synonym** 

Similar species

**Summary** Pittosporum viridiflorum is a shrub/tree that has become naturalised in Hawai'i

and Saint Helena. Originally cultivated in Europe as early as the 17th Century, the Dutch took the species to Saint Helena where it has now naturalised as an  $\,$ 

early coloniser in the currently regenerating shrubland. In Hawaii, P.

viridiflorum is typically found at altitudes less than 1000m at forest edges and

abandoned pasture.



view this species on IUCN Red List

### **Species Description**

Pittosporum viridiflorum is desribed by Wagner et al (1999; as seen in PIER, 2006) as a small tree 3-6 m tall with its young parts and inflorescences sparsely puberulent; branches glabrous. It has leathery leaves, 6-15 cm long, 2.2-4 cm wide, glabrous, with margins minutely revolute; the apex bluntly acuminate to rounded; the base attenuate and the petioles 0.6-1.5 cm long. P. viridiflorum's flowers are perfect, numerous in terminal, branched, have corymbose inflorescences with peduncles 0-8 mm long, its pedicels slender and 5-7 mm long. The sepals are elliptic and around 1.5 mm long, margins scarious. The petals are yellowish green, 5-6 mm long, with margins slightly revolute and erose. Its capsules are depressed-subglobose, slightly compressed and 4-5 mm long, with the valves having thin exocarp and the surface minutely rugulose. The seeds occur in 4-6, are reddish black, subreniform, are somewhat compressed, and are around 3.5-4 mm long.

#### Uses

Used as an ornamental in Hawaii (Starr *et al*, 2003). Its stem and bark have also been used medicinally (Matshinyalo & Reynolds, 2002, as seen in Starr *et al*, 2003).

## **Habitat Description**

In Hawaii, *Pittosporum viridiflorum* is cultivated, but has also naturalised sparingly at around 1000m altitude (PIER, 2006). In its native range, *P. viridiflorum* tolerates a wide range of elevations and grows in tall forests, in shrub of forest margins and on stream banks (Matshinyalo & Reynolds, 2002; as seen in Starr *et al*, 2003).

**System:** Terrestrial



## GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: Pittosporum viridiflorum

#### **Management Info**

Preventative measures: A Risk Assessment of *Pittosporum viridiflorum* for Hawai'i and other Pacific islands was prepared by Dr. Curtis Daehler (UH Botany) with funding from the Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program and US Forest Service. The alien plant screening system is derived from Pheloung et al. (1999) with minor modifications for use in Pacific islands (Daehler et al. 2004). The result is a score of 3 and a recommendation of: \"the plant requires further evaluation.\" \n

Physical: Seedlings of P. viridiflorum could be pulled by hand. Small trees could also be dug out. Cutting without herbicide treatment may result in re-growth (Starr et al, 2003)

Chemical: Cut stump, and basal bark methods employing herbicides are likely effective means of control for P. viridiflorum (Starr et al, 2003).

#### **Pathway**

Pittosporum viridiflorum is spread long distances by humans who use the species in landscaping (Starr et al., 2003)

## **Principal source:**

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government -Department of Environment

Review:

Pubblication date: 2005-01-24

**ALIEN RANGE** 

[5] UNITED STATES [1] SAINT HELENA

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

12 references found for Pittosporum viridiflorum

## Managment information

IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)., 2010. A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers.

Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk (PIER), 2005. Risk Assessment: Pittosporum viridiflorum Sims, Pittosporaceae

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/wra/pacific/pittosporum\_viridiflorum\_htmlwra.htm [Accessed June 22 2010]

Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk (PIER), 2006. Pittosporum viridiflorum Sims, Pittosporaceae Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/species/pittosporum viridiflorum.htm [Accessed June 22 2010]

Starr, Forest; Kim Starr and Lloyd Loope, 2003. Pittosporum viridiflorum Cape pittosporum Pittosporaceae

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/starr/hiplants/reports/pdf/pittosporum viridiflorum.pdf [Accessed June 22 2010]

### **General information**

Global Compendium of Weeds (GCW), 2007. Pittosporum viridiflorum (Pittosporaceae)

**Summary:** Available from: http://www.hear.org/gcw/species/pittosporum\_viridiflorum/ [Accessed June 22 2010]

Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), 2010. Pittosporum viridiflorum Sims

Summary: Available from: http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search\_topic=TSN&search\_value=504429 [Accessed June 22

McGinley, Mark, 2008. St. Helena scrub and woodlands. The Encyclopedia of Earth

Summary: Available from: http://www.eoearth.org/article/St. Helena scrub and woodlands [Accessed June 22 2010]

Starr, Forest; Kim Martz and Lloyd L. Loope, 1999. New Plant Records from East Maui for 1998. United States Geological Survey - Biological **Resources Division** 

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/starr/publications/new\_plant\_records\_1999.pdf [Accessed June 22 2010]

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2025. Species profile Pittosporum viridiflorum. Available from: <a href="https://iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=346">https://iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=346</a> [Accessed 31 March 2025]



# **GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE**

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: Pittosporum viridiflorum

USDA-ARS, 2010. Taxon: Pittosporum viridiflorum Sims. National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN) [Online Database]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland.

Summary: Available from: http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?28758 [Accessed June 22 2010]
USDA-NRCS, 2010. Pittosporum viridiflorum Sims. Cape cheesewood. The PLANTS Database. National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA
70874-4490 USA.

**Summary:** Available from: http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=PIVI5 [Accessed June 22 2010]

Varnham, K. 2005 (updated 2009). Non-native species in UK Overseas Territories: a review.

Wagner, W.L., D.R. Herbst, & S.H. Sohmer. 1990. Manual of the flowering plants of Hawai♦i. 2 vols. Univ. of Hawaii Press & Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu. 1,853 p.

Summary: Available from: http://hear.org/starr/publications/1999\_new\_plant\_records\_east\_maui-op59-1.pdf [Accessed 22 June 2010]