

MEDIA RELEASE

Environmental Weed of the Month – Porpieh/Cherry Guava (*Psidium cattleianum* var. *cattleyanum*)

Common names

Porpieh, Cherry Guava, Red Guava

Family

Myrtaceae

Origin

Brazil

Description

Large shrub or small tree growing to 6m tall. Dark green, egg shaped, shiny leaves are opposite each other on young stems and opposite but adjacent on older branches. Bark is reddish/brown and peels often to reveal lighter coloured bark underneath. Single, white flowers with 5 petals (1-2.5cm) appear inconsistently through the year but often in Spring and develop into hard, round, green fruit with a persistent calyx (navel). These ripen in Summer into light pink then dark red, sweet flavoured fruit (up to 4cm diameter) with white flesh and many hard seeds.

How do they spread?

Seeds are dispersed mainly by birds but also by livestock, rodents, on shoes, and in waterways.

Why are they an issue?

Prolific seeders that disperse seed easily. Heavy fruit fall that promotes pests like rodents and guava moth, as well as creates acidic environment. Grows in thickets that



Photo Credit: Trevor James



Photo Credit: Sarvodaya Institute

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prevent the germination of other species. Can tolerate most conditions. When fruiting over waterways, fruit will rot and affect water quality.

Where are you likely to find it?

Island wide. Cattle will eat it so uncommon on roadsides.

How can I control it?

1. Hand weed small plants.
2. Over spray seedlings 200 mL Glyphosate (360 g/L) per 10 L of water
3. Cut stump paint or injection method with 1 part Glyphosate per 1.5 parts of water.
4. Basal Bark application with 300mL Garlon with 20L Diesel.



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ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER

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