



About Hawaiian Seagrape

Common Name: Hawaiian seagrape, Hawaiian half-flower
Scientific Name: *Scaevola taccada*
Country/Region of origin: Pacific
Status in Bahamas: Alien Invasive
Typical Use: Hedge, shrubs



Alien invasive plants such as Hawaiian seagrape tend to grow rapidly and spread to many areas. Because of this growth they take over space that should be covered with native plants, reducing the diversity of native plants and reducing the quality of the habitat. This can encourage erosion and poor soil quality and can be harmful to local animal populations.



How can I help?

- * Choose to landscape with native plants
- * Support nurseries that sell native plants
- * Join the “Go Native” Program and replace invasive plants on your property with native alternatives
- * Encourage your friends to “Go Native!”

Plant these native alternatives to Hawaiian seagrape:



Once established, native plants require a lot less maintenance and watering than non-native plants. They are also better adapted to our climate and weather (including hurricanes!)

How to remove Hawaiian Seagrape:

In lieu of a half day at the gym, you're going to be removing Hawaiian sea grape. The attire is somewhat different -- sturdy shoes and socks, blue jeans, long-sleeved shirt to avoid getting scratched, work gloves and a large lopper or bow saw.

What you will need:

Loppers

Bow Saw

work gloves

Appropriate clothing

Trash bags

native plants

Determination!

The object is to get near the various multi stems that make up the sea grape.

1. Start by cutting away as much of the numerous branches that are in your way, leaving two- to three-foot of main stems exposed. This will allow you to grab the base of these stems, one at a time, with strong leverage to gradually pull the stem out with as many roots as possible attached. Start with the smaller, outer stems first and work your way into the larger, older stems last, as these will likely have the most roots attached.
2. You may not get all the roots, so you'll have to keep an eye on re-sprouting bushes in a month or two, which will then be easier to pull out. You may have to do this a third time to get everything out. The branches and roots should be disposed of, preferably to the dump.
3. If you are replanting, depending of course on your particular site, you may want to try groups of native plants, such as five or six 18-inch tall sea grapes, planted 2-3 feet on center, that will form a substantial grove, with smaller plants around the edges or at least sheltered from the predominant winds of your site.

Tips:

- Do not mulch Hawaiian Seagrape to place back in your garden because the pieces of roots will grow new plants - think of the Hydra of Greek Mythology!
- Once you remove the Hawaiian Seagrape check the ground early and often over the next month or so. These plants are much easier to remove when they are a few inches high!
- Till up the soil and add water and fertilizer when you plant your new trees. Your new plants may need regular watering for a week or two if there is no rain, after that they should be established and will take care of themselves.



This project is supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme
<http://www.sgbahamas.org/>