Autograph Tree

Clusia rosea









Autograph tree is widely grown as an ornamental in tropical regions of the world. It thrives in a diverse variety of environments. Plants readily spread from initial plantings to surrounding areas.

Autograph tree is considered one of Hawai'i's most invasive horticultural plants.

All photos by: Forest and Kim Star

Autograph Tree

Clusia rosea



Description:

Tree up to 10 m tall or more, often begins as an epiphyte on other trees, forms hanging aerial roots, and eventually kills the host tree.

Flower:

Pinkish flowers are short-lived and have approximately 6 to 8 petals.

Leaves:

Leathery paddle-like leaves that last for a long time and are often etched with graffiti.

Fruit:

The numerous seed capsules split open to reveal many red seeds contained within.

Impacts and Harm:

- Quickly escapes cultivation
- Strangles the host tree that it colonizes
- Shade tolerant and reproduces on its own
- Forms dense thickets that shade out other species
- Produces more than 1,000 seeds per m² per year

Plant this instead:

