



Do Not Cultivate

POISON VINE *Derris elliptica*



FBIISC

Description: A woody climbing vine with branches many yards long



Forest and Kim Starr



BIISC

Flowers: Pink to white, pea blossom shaped flowers in clusters

Don't confuse with this look alike:

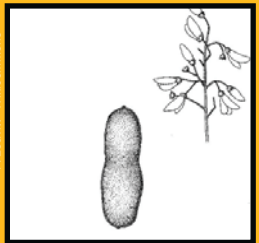


Forest and Kim Starr

Mexican Creeper

Leaves: Compound leaves with leaflets 2-6" long

Seeds: Flat, brownish pod to 2" long.



P. Leavitt - Wikicommons

VINE

POISON VINE

Derris elliptica

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: India, Malaysia, Indonesia

HWRA Score: 7

Big Island Habitat: Moist lowland habitats

Description: A fast growing, woody, climbing vine with reddish brown fuzzy stems, especially when young. Poison vine has deep green, compound leaves to 6 inches long and clusters of small pink to white, pea blossom shaped flowers.

Impacts: Poison vine climbs trees and other vegetation, rapidly killing its hosts by smothering.

Dispersal Mechanism: Stems break off easily and sprout.

Cultivation: Poison vine has been widely planted across the Pacific Basin and in Asia as a source of rotenone, an insecticide and fish poison. This plant was planted in the Hawaiian Islands experimentally for this purpose and has become invasive.

Don't confuse with:

- **Mexican Creeper** (*Antigonon leptopus*) This large vine has clusters of pink flowers which look similar from a distance, however they are not pea shaped and the leaves are single rather than compound.