



Present

Do Not Cultivate

FAYA TREE *Morella faya*



Forest and Kim Starr



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Description: Small tree to 45' tall, densely branched

Flowers: Small green to rust colored, in clusters along stems

Don't confuse with these look alike:



BIISC

Ho'awa



BIISC

Wax Myrtle

Leaves: Dark, glossy green, rounded at the ends, up to 4" long

Fruit: clusters of bright red or purple to brown berries, occasionally used for wine and lei



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FAYA TREE

Morella faya

Origin: Azores, Canaries and Madeira

HWRA Score: 17

Family: Myricaceae

Big Island Habitat: Naturalized in wet, upland forests.

Description: A fast growing, branching evergreen tree with dense, leathery foliage to 45 feet tall. Copious fruit is produced on female trees.

Impacts: Faya forms dense stands in wet, upland forests choking out native vegetation. The tree also fixes nitrogen from the atmosphere, which favors non-native plant growth. The two-spotted leaf hopper, a common pest of faya, can be spread to native plants nearby.

Dispersal Mechanism: The fruit is relished by birds and small mammals and is spread widely.

Cultivation: Faya was originally cultivated in Hawai'i as an ornamental plant and source of fruit for wine making. It was also used in early attempts at reforestation.

Don't confuse with:

- **Ho'awa** (*Pittosporum hosmeri*) This compact, bush to small tree has similar shaped leaves, but their undersides are hairy and rust colored.
- **Wax Myrtle** (*Morella cerifera*) The leaves of this smaller shrubby relative are similar to faya but wax myrtle's fruit is much smaller, rounded and grayish blue.