



Present

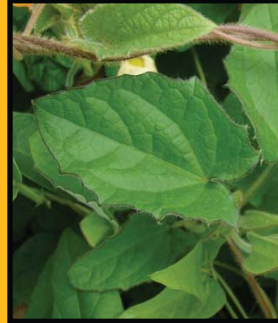
## Do Not Cultivate

# BLACK EYED SUSAN VINE *Thunbergia alata*



Forest and Kim Starr

**Description:**  
Large sprawling or climbing herbaceous vine with smothering habit



Forest and Kim Starr



BIISC

**Flowers:** Light yellow to deep orange, funnel shaped flowers with maroon to purple throats, 2" wide

**Don't confuse with this look alike:**



Forest and Kim Starr

Yellow Allamanda

**Leaves:** Medium green, hairy with irregular margins, often tinged red to purple, 2 to 3" long

**Seeds:** Papery calyxes which pop open when ripe, ejecting small, round, dark brown seeds



Forest and Kim Starr

VINE

# BLACK EYED SUSAN VINE

*Thunbergia alata*

Family: Acanthaceae

Origin: Eastern Africa

HWRA Score: 14

Big Island Habitat: Dry and moist forests

**Description:** A sprawling or climbing herbaceous vine with dense foliage and light yellow to orange, five petaled, funnel shaped flowers with maroon to dark purple throats.

**Impacts:** Black eyed Susan vine was once widely cultivated as an ornamental. It has escaped cultivation and now invades native forests, smothering all nearby vegetation. Infestations can be found near Hilo and Volcano Village.

**Dispersal Mechanism:** Black eyed Susan vine spreads readily by seeds, which are dispersed far from the parent plant as the ripe seeds are forcibly ejected from papery calyxes, and also by root stolons. Even cuttings of the plant will resprout readily.

**Don't confuse with:**

- **Yellow Allamanda** (*Allamanda cathartica*) This common ornamental vine's flowers have a similar shape, but lack a dark colored throat.