



Blue trumpet vine (*Thunbergia grandiflora*)

- Scientific name & Code** *Thunbergia grandiflora* Roxb., THGR3
Synonyms – *Thunbergia lacei*, *Thunbergia clarkei*
- Family:** Acanthaceae – Acanthus Family
- Duration/Growth Habit:** Perennial Vine
- Common names:** English – blue trumpet vine, Bengal clock vine, Bengal trumpet, large-flowered Thunbergia, skyflower
- Origin:** Asia (Northern India)
- Description:** Climbing vine with broad, cordate 5-7 nerved palmately lobed leaves to nearly 20 cm long, almost as broad, pubescent, on 4-12 cm long petioles. Flowers in pendant racemes, large and showy, calyx pubescent, corolla violet or whitish, the tube pale yellow, 3-3.5 cm long, 6-8 cm wide. Seeds smooth on one side, warty on the reverse.
- Propagation:** Seeds, cuttings, and fragments of stems and roots.
- Distribution:** Identified in Hawaii (Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu), Guam, Palau (main island group), Pohnpei.
- Habitat/Ecology:** Climbing vine that grows readily from tuberous roots that are spread in soil or water. It infests roadsides and pastures, forming impenetrable thickets. Riparian areas and the edges of rainforest are particularly at risk of invasion.
- Environmental impact:** Smothering vine that can enshroud even tall trees. Serious threat to lowland tropical rainforests. Can establish 100% ground cover over several acres. Not known to support any native wildlife and provides a refuge for feral pigs.
- Management:** Physical – Pulling plants and harvesting underground tubers can be effective over time but is very labor intensive.
Chemical – Spraying or painting cut stumps with glyphosate or 2,4-D is effective. Sensitive to imazapyr applied to foliage during active growth. Aerial growth may be killed with 2,4-D or glyphosate but plants resprout from tubers. Triclopyr appears promising in trials for foliar application and cut-stump treatments.
Biological – The potential for biological control has not been evaluated.

PIER Risk Assessment: High Risk, score: 11



a) *Thunbergia* flower and leaves



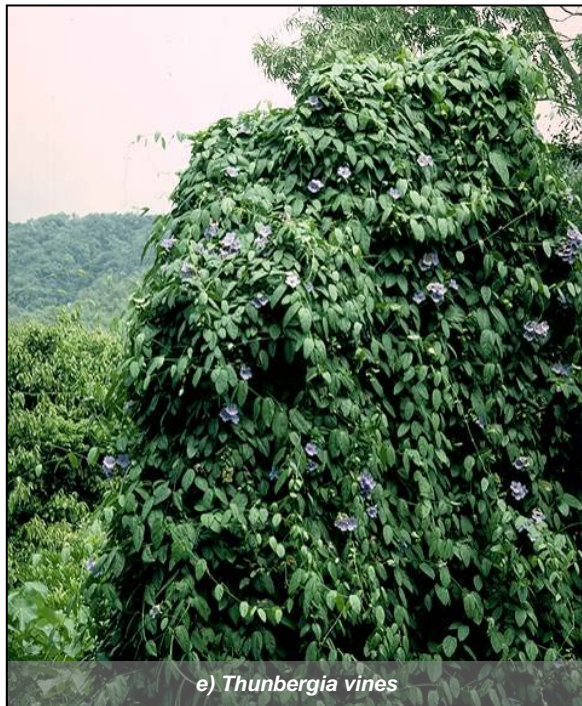
b) *Thunbergia* climbing/smothering trees



c) *Thunbergia* leaves



d) Close-up of *Thunbergia* flower



e) *Thunbergia* vines

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