

Invasive Species Fact Sheet

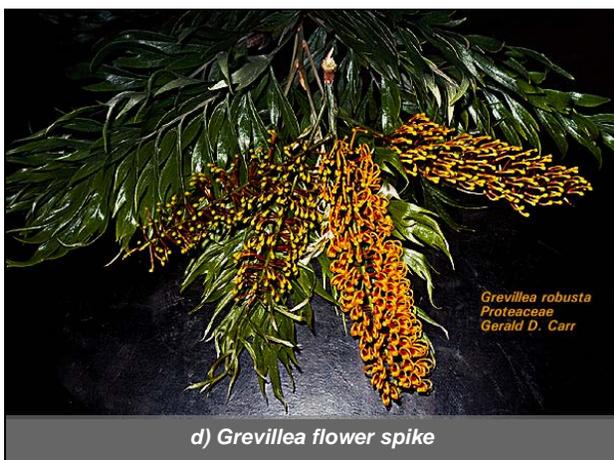
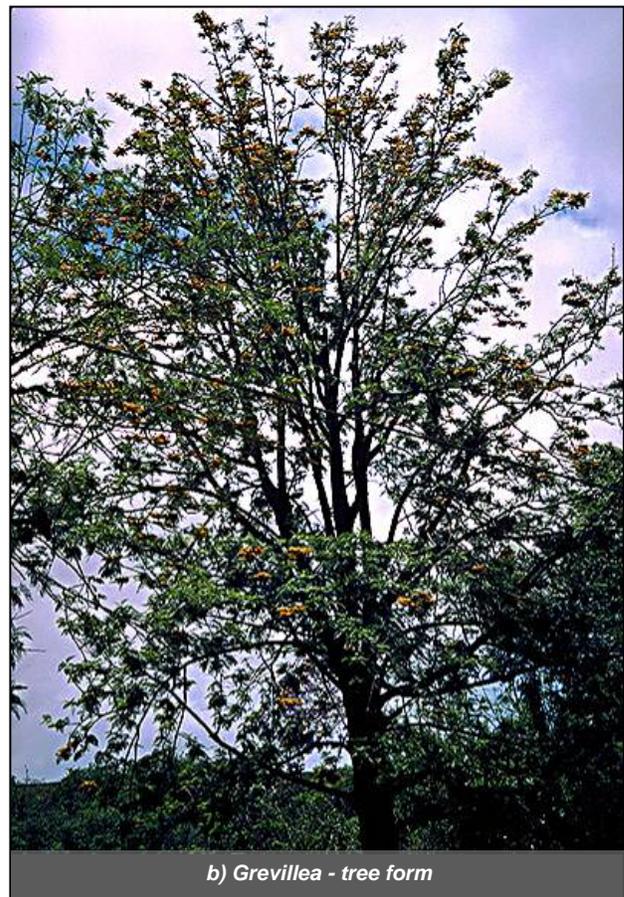
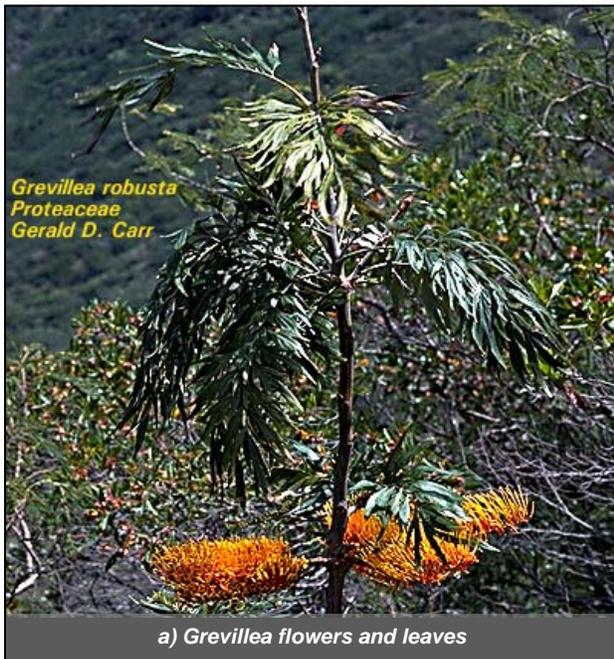
Pacific Islands Area

Silk oak (*Grevillea robusta*)



- Scientific name & Code:** *Grevillia robusta* A. Cunn. ex R. Br., **GRRO**
Synonyms - *Stylurus robusta* (A. Cunn.) Deg.
- Family:** Proteaceae – Protea Family
- Duration/Growth Habit:** Perennial Tree
- Common names:** English – silk oak, silky oak, he oak, she oak, silver oak
Hawaiian – ha'iku ke'oke'o, 'oka kilika
- Origin:** Eastern Australia. Introduced into Hawaii about 1880.
- Description:** Large evergreen tree 18-30 m high. Young branches hairy, rusty. Leaves simple, alternate, smooth, deeply and narrowly lobed, to 1 ft long; upper surface of leaves dark green, lower surface of leaves rusty turning to whitish, margins curling under. Flowers in clusters, 7 inches long, orange to golden brown, peak blooming May–June. Fruits are dry, dark capsules (follicles), with a long hair-like appendage at the end containing one or two flat, winged seeds.
- Propagation:** Abundant viable seed producer. Wind and water dispersed seeds.
- Distribution:** Identified in Hawaii (Hawai'i, Kaho'olawe, Kaua'i, Lana'i, Maui, Moloka'i, Ni'ihau, O'ahu), and Guam.
- Habitat/Ecology:** Fast growing, drought tolerant but grows well in moist areas (60-80 inches/year) from 1000 to 5200 feet elevation. Not shade tolerant. Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation, cultivation, or fire.
- Environmental impact:** An abundant seed producer, it is a weedy tree that grows well in drier mesic forests and pastures. May have some allelopathic effect on other plants and its own seedlings. Pollen may trigger hay fever.
- Management:** Physical – Cutting can be effective. Has value for timber.
Chemical – Sensitive to triclopyr ester applied to frill cuts and/or basal bark. Susceptible to cut-surface and continuous frill applications of picloram and glyphosate and tolerant of 2,4-D and dicamba. Applications of glyphosate and triclopyr to drilled holes may be very effective.
Biological – Goats are effective at control. Foliage can be used as livestock fodder. Propagules do not survive passage through the gut of grazing animals.

PIER Risk Assessment: Evaluate, score: 5



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