

Fireworks (445)

Summary

- Restricted. Asia, North America (restricted), Caribbean, Oceania. In many Pacific islands.
- Important invasive weed, growing rapidly, producing large amounts of seed and root suckers, forming dense thickets along roadsides, waste grounds, disturbed areas. It has potential to invade relatively intact native forests.
- Perennial shrub up to 5 m, stems almost four-sided. Leaves, in pairs, oblong, 15-20 cm long, green upper surface, dark-purple below. Flowers, many, in showy flat-topped clusters, each a narrow pink tube, 5-8 cm long, ending in five-curved white petals. Fruits, earth-shaped, with four seeds
- Spread: root suckers; seeds by birds and other animals; contaminants of sand and soil; trade in ornamentals.
- Biosecurity: high risk of introduction, showy flowers, medicinal use.
- Biocontrol: no information.
- Cultural control: hand weed or dig out when small.
- Chemical control (see **Honolulu rose Fact Sheet no. 443**): foliar (picloram; triclopyr; 2,4-D; metsulfuron-methyl; picloram + triclopyr, picloram + 2,4-D; dicamba + 2,4-D); cut-stump (same herbicides); soil (fluroxypyr). In Fiji, glyphosate.

Common Name

Fireworks; it is also known as firecracker, Philippine glory-bower, or starburst bush. CABI prefers the name bronze-leaved clerodendrum.

Scientific Name

Clerodendrum quadriloculare. It is a member of the Lamiaceae.



Photo 1. A small thicket of young fireworks trees, *Clerodendrum quadriloculare*.



Photo 2. The beginnings of a stand of fireworks, *Clerodendrum chinense*, in an abandoned coconut plantation.



Photo 3. Fireworks, *Clerodendrum chinense*, roadside with opened flowers.



Photo 4. Leaves, *Clerodendrum quadriloculare*.



Photo 5. Leaves, *Clerodendrum quadriloculare*, showing the dark purple of the lower side.



Photo 6. Unopened flowers, *Clerodendrum quadriloculare*.



Photo 7. Opened flowers, *Clerodendrum chinense*.

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Information from CABI (2019) *Clerodendrum quadriloculare* (bronzed-leaved clerodendrum). Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/14334>); and from Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (2013) *Clerodendrum quadriloculare*. (http://www.hear.org/pier/species/clerodendrum_quadriloculare.htm). Photos 1-4 Forest and Kim Star, Star Environmental, Bugwood.org.

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