# Ginger Control Efforts by EMWP

## Chris Radford & Dan Eisenberg East Maui Watershed Partnership





### **East Maui Watershed Partnership Lands**

Haleakalā Ranch
State of Hawai'i DLNR/DOFAW
Haleakalā National Park
East Maui Irrigation
County of Maui
The Nature Conservancy

### **East Maui Watershed Partnership Lands**

#### **Major EMWP Management Areas**





6,000 Acres

## Weed Problem (Hedychium gardnerianum)

- Common Names: Kahili Ginger, Himalayan Ginger, Toilet Brush Ginger...
- Native to India, Nepal, Bangladesh
- Introduced to Maui 1950's or 1960's E. Maui Cul
- Naturalized on Maui from 1,200 6,360 ft elevati
- Coarse, Perennial Herb with Leafy Shoots
- Grows 1.5 2m Tall From Large Branching Rhizon







## Weed Problem (Hedychium gardnerianum)

- Aggressive Growth
- Shade Tolerant
- Spreads Through Rhizomes and Frugivorous Birds
- Average production is >100 seeds per flower head







## Weed Problem (Hedychium gardnerianum)

- Forms Dense Monotypic Thickets in Open & Closed Canopy Native Hawaiian Forests
- Smothers Young Native Seedlings, Prevents Forests Regeneration, Outcompetes Native Plants
- Reduces Nitrogen
- Promotes Erosion
- Inhibits Stream Flow



### East Maui Ginger Distribution

- Not Treated
- Treated
  - HedgarEstRangeSparse09 HedgarEstRangeDense09







### East Maui Hedychium gardnerianum Distribution

1.25

2.5

5

7.5

10 Miles

Estimated Hed Gar Range Dense 2009 Estimated Hed Gar Range Sparse 2009

- EMWP Hed Gar
- TNC Hed Gar
- HALE NPS Hed Gar

HALE NPS Hed Gar Treatment Area

Waikamoi Preserve

NPS Boundary

#### **EMWP Units**





Area of Interest

### 

### 





























## Ginger Control Strategy & Approach

- Scout to Determine Extent of Infestation
- Propose Work Area for the Year & Secure Funding
- Establish Base Camp (Shelter & Catchment)
- Sweep Proposed Work Area
- Maintain 3 Year Revisit Interval





## Ginger Control Strategy & Approach

- Requires Meticulous Search & Control Technique
- Cut Stump Using Sickle + Stabbing
- Spot Spray Rhizomes With Herbicide
   1/2 gram Escort + 10 ml Methylated Seed Oil (MSO)
   per liter Water
- Cover Treated Area With Cut Ginger Leaves
- GPS Point (Square Meters, Matu ature)

## Ginger Control Strategy & Approach













GROUP 2 HERBICIDE

#### HERBICIDE

#### **Dry Flowable**

Active Ingredient Metsulfuron methyl	Ву	Weight
Methyl 2-[[[(4-methoxy-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazin- 2-yl)amino]-carbonyl]amino]sulfonyl]benzoate Other Ingredients		60% 40%
TOTAL		100%

EPA Reg. No. 432-1549 EPA Est. No. 065604-AR-001

Nonrefillable Container



Si usted no entiende la etiqueta, busque a alguien para que se la explique a usted en detalle. (If you do not understand this label, find someone to explain it to you in detail.)

See inside leaflet for complete First Aid Instructions, Precautionary Statements, Directions for Use and Storage and Disposal Instructions.

Net Weight **1 Pound 84122394** A01798371 150622AV4 FIFRA Section 24(c) Special Local Need Label



#### FOR DISTRIBUTION AND USE ONLY WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII

For Spot Treatment for the Control of Wild Ginger

#### Escort XP Herbicide®

EPA Reg. No. 432-1549

SLN. No. HI-160002

THIS LABEL IS VALID UNTIL 10/10/2021 UNLESS OTHERWISE AMENDED, WITHDRAWN, CANCELED, OR SUSPENDED.

Escort Herbicide is a dispersible granule that is mixed in water and applied as spray. The use of Escort XP Herbicide under this Special Local Need registration is specific to spot application(s) for control of wild ginger (*Hedychium sp.*) in forests (montane wet forest, mesic forest), forest margins, and other mid to high elevation wildland areas where this plant is invasive.

#### DIRECTIONS FOR USE

It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling. This label must be in the possession of the user at the time of pesticide application. Follow all applicable directions, restrictions, Worker Protection Standard requirements, and precautions on the EPA registered label.

Escort XP Herbicide is recommended for the control of wild ginger (Hedychium sp.) in forests, forest margins, and access roads and trails.

Apply Escort XP Herbicide at 0.067-0.133 ounces (1.9 -3.8 grams) per gallon of water (½ -1 gram Escort XP Herbicide per liter of water) for spot treatments, not to exceed 3 ounces (85 grams) per acre per year within the spot treatment area.

#### HOW TO USE

Spot applications may be made using backpack sprayers, hand-held tanks, spray bottles, or lab squirt applicator bottles. Apply to the leaves, exposed rhizomes, and cut surface or stalks and rhizomes. To maximize uptake when treating cut ginger stems and rhizomes, cut into dormant corms and apply Escort XP Herbicide solution. When applying Escort XP herbicide solution, avoid run-off or overspray onto soil by directing spray at ginger surface rhizomes or foliage only.

Escort XP Herbicide may be combined with non-ionic surfactant to improve foliar uptake.

The use of dye is recommended to track spray solution.

Spot applications to limit regrowth may be made on as-needed basis.



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## **Resources & Logistics**

- Backcountry Helicopter Only Access
- Catchment Water to Mix Herbicide
- Average 1 Week Camp Trip per Month
- Funded by Maui County Department of Water Supply & DLNR Division of Forestry & Wildlife
- EMWP's 2017 Ginger Control Project Cost About \$60,000





### **Expected 2017 Outcomes**

- Weeds treated: *Hedychium gardnerianum, Psidium cattleianum, Clidemia hirta, Spathodea campanulata*
- Staff time: 27 person days

  5 Camp Trips (4 People)
  1 Day Trip (5 EMWP + 2 LHWRP)
- 1 More Camp Trip Needed To Finish & Break Down Camp – Scheduled for Next Week
- Area protected: 2017 Polygon = 43+ Acres



## **Challenges & Limitations**

- Very Wet, Remote Environment
- Source Populations Remain
- Hard to Find & Treat Every Tiny Individual (Epiphytic)
- Resprouting If You Cut Wrong, or Don't Treat Every Rhizome (Including Subterranean) and Seedlings
- Dense Canopy Makes Aerial Detection Difficult
- Herbicide Mixture Designed for Immediate Use Limited Storage Time



## Looking Ahead – 2018 Goals

- Re-Establish Wailuanui Base Camp (Lolly)
- Begin Re-Sweeping Wailuanui Polygons in 2018
  - 44 Acres
  - 14 Acres
- Explore Alternative Herbicide Cocktails & Tools?



## **Thank You!**













### **Discussion Questions**

- Best cocktail? Escort Storage Limitations?
- Revisit schedule?
  - Based on reproductive biology & resources
- Best control methods?
- Strategy?
- Any other threats we should be looking for at this location?
- Anything anyone wants GPS'ed in this area?

### Merochlorops Life Cycle



### Black Hispine-Prionispa sp





### Hed Gar exposed to Hispine Beetles

### Proposed lifecycle for *Tetratopus* sp. weevil on *H. coronarium* and *H. gardnerianum*

Weevils cause some leaf damage by feeding through leaves still wrapped around stem during June

and late instar larvae

WINTER

Mating and egg-laying into rhizome June/July

Life cycle of *Tetratopus* sp. on *Hedychium coronarium* and *H. gardnerianum* in Sikkim New larvae develop in rhizome during summer causing substantial damage

> Pupation and resting adult in pupation cocoon as early as September

SUMMER

Some weevil adults are still present above ground in October

Adult weevils emerge in May/June

SPRIMA

### Newly emerged adult *Tetratopus* weevil in quarantine (ex India *H. gardnerianum*-collected as larva)



### Damage to *Hedychium coronarium* rhizome caused by *Tetratopus* weevil larva in quarantine



### Tetratopus larva in H. coronarium in Sikkim



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• 85 g / Acre

- 85g = 42.5gal
- 2g/gal

• .5/L