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---

[ [back](#) ] [ [PIER species lists](#) ] [ [PIER home](#) ]

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# Eugenia brasiliensis

Lam., Myrtaceae



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**Present on Pacific Islands?** yes

**Primarily a threat at high elevations?** no

**Risk assessment results:** Evaluate, score: 1 ([Go to the risk assessment](#)).

**Other Latin names:** *Eugenia dombeyi* (Spreng.) Skeels; *Myrtus dombeyi* Spreng.

**Common name(s):** [\[more details\]](#)

English: Brazilian cherry, Brazilian plum, grumichama, Spanish cherry

French: cerieier du Japon, cerise du Brésil, jambosier du Brésil, pruneau

Portuguese: grumixameira

**Habit:** tree

**Description:** "The highly ornamental tree is slender, erect, usually to 25 or 35 ft (7.5-10.5 m) high, short-trunked and heavily foliated with opposite, oblong-oval leaves 3 1/2 to 5 in (9-16 cm) long, 2 3/8 in (5-6 cm) wide, with recurved margin; glossy, thick, leathery, and minutely pitted on both surfaces. They persist for 2 years. New shoots are rosy. The flowers, borne singly in the leaf axils, are 1 in (2.5 cm) wide; have 4 green sepals and 4 white petals, and about 100 white stamens with pale-yellow anthers. The long-stalked fruit is oblate, 1/2 to 3/4 in (1.25-2 cm) wide; turns from green to bright-red and finally dark-purple to nearly black as it ripens, and bears the persistent, purple- or red-tinted sepals, to 1/2 in (1.25 cm) long, at its apex. The skin is thin, firm and exudes dark-red juice. The red or white pulp is juicy and tastes much like a true subacid or sweet cherry except for a touch of aromatic resin. There may be 1 more or less round, or 2 to 3 hemispherical, hard, light-tan or greenish-gray seeds to 1/2 in (1.25 cm) wide and half as thick" (Morton, 1987).

"Slender **tree** 25-35 feet tall. **Leaf** blades oblong-ovate, 3.5-5 inches long, 1-2.25 inches wide, leathery, glossy, both sides minutely pitted, margins recurved. **Inflorescence** in terminal clusters on branches, or flowers solitary, pedicels 1.25-2 inches long. **Flower** sepals 4, green; petals 4, white; stamens to 100, anthers pale yellow. **Fruit** flattened-globose, 0.5-0.75 inches in diameter, red turning dark purple-black when ripe, flesh juicy, apex capped by persistent sepals. **Seeds** 1-3, to 0.5 inches wide, pale tan to greenish gray" (Staples & Herbst, 2005; p. 423).

**Habitat/ecology:** The grumichama is subtropical, surviving temperatures of 26° F (-3.33° C) in Brazil. It is better suited to Palm Beach than to southern Florida. In Hawaii, the tree fruits best from sea-level to an altitude of no more than 300 ft (90 m). The grumichama does better on acid sand in Central Florida than it does on limestone in the south. It is reported to prefer deep, fertile, sandy loam. Sturrock says it grows well in rich clay in Cuba but is adversely affected by the long, dry season" (Morton, 1987).

**Propagation:** Seed (Morton, 1987).

**Native range:** Southern coastal Brazil (Staples & Herbst, 2005; p. 423).

**Presence:**

<b>Pacific</b>			
<b>Country/Terr./St. &amp; Island group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cited status &amp; Cited as invasive &amp; Cited as cultivated &amp; Cited as aboriginal introduction?</b>	<b>Reference &amp; Comments</b>
Fiji Fiji Islands	Viti Levu Island	introduced cultivated	<a href="#">Smith, Albert C. (1985)</a> (p. 373) Vouchers cited: DA 1544, DA 5528
French Polynesia Society Islands	Tahiti Island	introduced cultivated	<a href="#">Florence, J./Chevillotte, H./Ollier, C./Meyer, J.-Y. (2011)</a> Voucher cited: J. Florence 11506 (PAP) Probablement le seul arbre planté à Tahiti.
State of Hawaii Hawaiian Islands	Maui Island	introduced invasive	<a href="#">Starr, Forest/Starr, Kim (year unknown)</a> "Lining the side of the Hana Highway at Ulumalu in Haiku, and was also in nearby gulches."
State of Hawaii Hawaiian Islands	Maui Island	introduced invasive	<a href="#">Starr, Forest/Starr, Kim (2011)</a> (p. 29) East Maui. Voucher cited: Starr & Starr 090616-01 (BISH)
State of Hawaii Hawaiian Islands	Maui Island		<a href="#">Bishop Museum (U.S.A. Hawaii. Honolulu.) (1932)</a> (voucher ID: BISH 59801) Taxon name on voucher: Eugenia brasiliensis
State of Hawaii Hawaiian Islands	O'ahu Island		<a href="#">Bishop Museum (U.S.A. Hawaii. Honolulu.) (1990)</a> (voucher ID: BISH 595956) Taxon name on voucher: Eugenia dombeyi
New Caledonia New Caledonia Archipelago	Île Grande Terre	introduced cultivated	<a href="#">MacKee, H. S. (1994)</a> (p. 105) Vouchers cited: MacKee 21179, Suprin 2313, Bégaud in MacKee 44146
<b>Pacific Rim</b>			
<b>Country/Terr./St. &amp; Island group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cited status &amp; Cited as invasive &amp; Cited as cultivated &amp; Cited as aboriginal introduction?</b>	<b>Reference &amp; Comments</b>
Singapore Singapore	Singapore (Republic of)	introduced cultivated	<a href="#">Chong, Kwek Yan/Tan, Hugh T. W./Corlett, Richard T. (2009)</a> (p. 40) Cultivated only
<b>Indian Ocean</b>			
<b>Country/Terr./St. &amp; Island group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cited status &amp; Cited as invasive &amp; Cited as</b>	<b>Reference &amp; Comments</b>

		<b>cultivated &amp; Cited as aboriginal introduction?</b>	
La Réunion (France) La Réunion Island	La Réunion Island	introduced invasive cultivated	<a href="#">Lavergne, Christophe (2006)</a> "Cultivé/naturalisé"

**Comments:** Cultivated and naturalized in La Réunion per Christophe Lavergne, pers. com.

**Additional information:**

Additional online information about *Eugenia brasiliensis* is available from the [Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk project \(HEAR\)](#).

[Information about \*Eugenia brasiliensis\* as a weed \(worldwide references\)](#) may be available from the [Global Compendium of Weeds \(GCW\)](#).

[Taxonomic information about \*Eugenia brasiliensis\*](#) may be available from the [Germplasm Resources Information Network \(GRIN\)](#).

**References:**

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[ [back](#) ] [ [PIER species lists](#) ] [ [PIER home](#) ]

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