

# Invasive Limu

## Helping coral reefs recover from invasive algae



*Gracilaria salicornia* or gorilla ogo, an invasive algae, has spread rapidly over coral reefs in Hawaii. This algae, like other invasive algae, can smother and kill corals, destroying vital reef habitat that supports hundreds of species of fish and other marine organisms.

Alien algae outbreaks can be aggravated by human actions; high-nutrient levels caused by run-off and sewage outfalls and injection wells can feed these algae, causing them to grow faster. However, people can also help to control alien species by learning how to identify and report sightings, by removing algae from the water, and by not using fertilizers that can end up in our oceans.



The supersucker is another tool in the fight against alien algae; it was designed to remove large amounts of algae with a small crew in remote locations such as the patch reefs of Kaneohe Bay.

Leaving herbivorous sea creatures like manini and collector urchins on the reef can help corals because these organisms are a natural control for algae. Together we can help reduce the impact of alien algae on our coral reefs.

