



## 'Egami', a New Longan Cultivar from Hawaii

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'Egami' is a very productive cultivar of longan (*Diospyros longan* (Lour.) Steud.). It was selected at CTAHR's Kona Research Station and named in honor of Mr. Yosoto Egami, who was the station foreman for over 30 years. The selection is an open-pollinated seedling of unknown origin and formerly has been referred to as 'Kona No. 1', 'Mauka', and 'Kainaliu'.

'Egami' consistently bears large clusters of fruits and produces crops more regularly than 'Kohala' longan. When compared with nine other cultivars in the collection at the Kona Research Station, 'Egami' was preferred based on taste and ranked second for flavor and third for pulp crispness. It was also highly acceptable as a dried fruit based on flavor and pulp recovery.

'Egami' trees are vigorous with strong, upright branching (Fig. 1). The large, dark green leaves have eight leaflets. The bark is slightly rough and gray-brown. Both grafted and air-layered trees produce fruits in four years

and can be pruned to maintain a low stature. Initially during flowering more male flowers are produced on the panicles, but later the flowers are predominantly female, and fruit set is excellent. Flowering can start in late February and continue to the end of March.

Fifty or more fruits are usually borne on each panicle; they mature from August to early October. Mature fruits are round and brown-russet with a smooth, leathery skin (Fig. 2). The fruits are slightly smaller than those of 'Kohala', with an average diameter of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch to just under 1 inch (1.9–2.3 cm), and they can weigh up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz (15 g). The whitish, translucent edible flesh is about 72–75 percent of the total fruit weight. The pulp is tender, crisp, and sweet, with total soluble solids ranging from 18 to 22 percent of the juice. The small, shiny, black seed is only about 10 percent of the total fruit weight.

'Egami' plants are available from various commercial nurseries in Hawaii.

Figure 1. The original 'Egami' longan tree at the Kona Research Station.



Figure 2. Fruits of 'Egami' longan.



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