



## 'Mauna Loa' Anthurium

*A.R. Kuehnle, H. Kamemoto, T.D. Amore, J.T. Kunisaki, J.S. Lichty, and J.Y. Uchida*

**M**ulticolored ("obake") flowers are a standard component of the color assortment offered by many anthurium growers and retailers. Field tests of the green and white obake anthurium selection UH1155 show it to be a desirable cutflower with year-round production of glossy spathes having excellent vase life. This attractive selection is named 'Mauna Loa' to complement the popular white obake 'Mauna Kea' and the relatively small white obake 'Tropic Ice', both previously released by the UH-CTAHR Department of Horticulture. Characteristics of 'Mauna Loa' are given below.

'Mauna Loa' originated from an open-pollinated 'Tropic Ice'. The seedling was selected in March 1987 for observation and evaluation, and it was increased by aseptic culture in 1992. Tissue-cultured plantlets were transferred to CTAHR's Waiakea Research Station in 1994 for growing out, and over 100 individual plants each were given to grower-cooperators in East Hawaii for advance testing in fall 1996 and 1997. Performance of plants at all advance-test sites was good. Evaluation was completed in summer 1999, and mother flasks of propagative materials will be released.

A major attribute of 'Mauna Loa' is the outstanding vase life of about 56 days (unpacked). Vase-life trials conducted over a two-year period with 252 dry-packed flowers also showed excellent keeping quality (40 days). Other attributes include resistance to anthracnose, tolerance of bacterial blight, and ease of micropropagation. 'Mauna Loa' yields about six flowers per plant per year on straight and sturdy stems. There are few white obakes available with such good yield and long vase life.



### Characteristics of Anthurium 'Mauna Loa'

Spathe		
Size and shape	medium to large, roundish, open lobes	8 inches wide, 10 inches long
Color		white with green
Spadix		
Size and shape	3 inches long, 3/8 inch diameter;	curved downward
Color		yellow-green turning white
Flower Stem		erect, 26 inches long, 3/8 inch diameter
Yield		5.9 flowers per plant per year
Leaf		
Blade		12 inches long, 6 1/4 inches wide; heart-shape
Petiole		15 1/2 inches long, 1/4 inch diameter
Internode length		short
Sucker production		fair
Disease tolerance		tolerant of bacterial blight; resistant to anthracnose
Keeping quality		
Fresh cut		56 days
Dry packed		39.5 days (includes 3-day simulated dry pack)