



## 'White Lady' Anthurium

A. R. Kuehnle<sup>1</sup>, T. D. Amore<sup>1</sup>, H. Kamemoto<sup>1</sup>, J. T. Kunisaki<sup>1</sup>, J. S. Lichty<sup>1</sup>, and J. Y. Uchida<sup>2</sup>  
Departments of <sup>1</sup>Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences and <sup>2</sup>Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences

Elegant, showy flowers and multiple-purpose production options characterize the new anthurium variety 'White Lady', UH1244. This novelty cut-flower, cut-foilage, and potted-plant selection arose from a complex cross involving several species of *Anthurium* possessing attractive, bacterial blight-resistant foliage. The resulting offspring is also resistant to both bacterial blight and anthracnose. Its attractive, dark green leaves are narrow and triangular, similar to the foliage of 'Lady Jane'. We consider 'White Lady' an exciting new opportunity for Hawaii's anthurium industry.

'White Lady' originated from a cross made in 1987 between ([ 'Uniwai' x *A. lindenianum*] x *A. amnicola*) and (*A. andraeanum* x *A. antioquiense*). The seedling was selected in 1989 for observation and evaluation and placed in aseptic culture in 1990 for increase. It propagated extremely slowly under the culture conditions employed at that time. Tissue-cultured plantlets were transferred to CTAHR's Waiakea Research Station in 1996 for growing out, and individual plants were given to grower-cooperators for advance testing in 1998. Field performance at all sites was good. Evaluation was completed in December 2000. Tissue culture conditions of light and nutrient medium were subsequently improved such that micropropagation time is now fully acceptable, and mother flasks are ready for release.

Cut flowers of 'White Lady' have a vase life of 25 days unpacked. Vase-life trials conducted over a two-year period with 257 dry-packed flowers also showed good keeping quality (23 days including 3 days packed). While vase life can be doubled to 40-plus days (packed) by dipping or spraying the flowers with 100 ppm BA, this treatment causes a greenish tinge of spadices and interveinal regions of spathes within 10–20 days. This may be undesirable for some uses, such as for weddings.

'White Lady' has potential for use as a potted plant, because its flowers are held upright and above the dense foliage. The flower acquires a pinkish hue with age, making old flowers still attractive on the plant. Production by pinching back the main shoot may yield a compact



blooming plant for the 6-inch pot market, as the variety has good sucker production. The foliage is of good shape and sheen and also is suitable for harvest. The recurved spathe shape of this attractive selection is reminiscent of another University of Hawaii cultivar, 'Lavender Lady', and thus the new release is named 'White Lady'.



### Characteristics of Anthurium 'White Lady'

Spathe	
Size and shape	6 $\frac{2}{3}$ " long, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide; recurved lateral
Color	White, turning pinkish after pollen is shed
Spadix	
Size and shape	3" long, $\frac{1}{8}$ " diameter; lateral
Color	Yellow turning green as flowers mature
Flower stem	Erect, 22" long, $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter
Leaf blade	12" long, 7" wide
Leaf petiole	15", $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter
Yield	6 flowers per plant per year
Internode length	Short
Sucker production	Good
Disease tolerance	Resistant to bacterial blight and anthracnose
Keeping quality	
Fresh cut	24.7 $\pm$ 5.5 days
Packed	23 days (includes 3-day packing period)