

# URBAN GARDEN CENTER FACT SHEET

ADDRESS: 955 Kamehameha Highway  
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782-2501  
PHONE: (808) 453-6050, FAX: (808) 453-6052  
WEBSITE: <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ougc/>  
E-MAIL: [ugcpc@ctahr.hawaii.edu](mailto:ugcpc@ctahr.hawaii.edu)  
OAHU MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE: (808) 453-6055



University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service owned facility with programs in urban horticulture focusing on a one stop educational center concept for the public. Local school outreach programs and gardening demonstrations are available to the community. One of the largest collection of turf grass, ground covers, hedges, and citrus in the state occupy the site.

## Mission Statement:

*College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources* – The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is committed to the preparation of students and all citizens of Hawaii for life in the global community through research and educational programs supporting tropical agricultural systems that foster viable communities, a diverse economy, and a healthy environment.

*Urban Garden Center* – To continuously and consistently provide innovative and diverse horticultural information to the gardening public.

Type of Garden: Public Garden

Established: 1989 (prior to 1965 was occupied by the Navy, National Guard, flood zone area; 1965 to 1988 community gardens; 1988 started fruit and plumeria gardens)

Size: 30 acres

Average Time To Walk Through: 45 minutes

Garden Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (except holidays).

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except holidays). All visitors must check in at the Main Office.

Lost or Found: Located at the Main Office

First Aid Kit: Located in the Field Office and Classroom

Best Season for Viewing: Spring

Gardens: Examples, include: plumeria, hedge maze, ecosystem-native plants, sub-tropical fruit orchard, turf, ground covers, herbs, idea garden, vines, vegetable and fruit trials, hibiscus, pizza, plants with animal names, Hawaiian alphabet tree garden, crotons, heleconia, bromeliads, medicinal garden, taro specimens, day lilies, Alika Rabbit garden.

Wheel Chair Access: Limited

Elevation: 17 ft. parking area

Soil: Various soil types, with 6.5 to 7.2 pH

Rainfall: Average 20 inches per year, predominantly in March and November

## Garden Descriptions

### *Turf Plots*

Total of 25 different turfgrasses are displayed. Large planting of turfgrass are found at the following sites:

- 'Tifgreen' Bermudagrass - Front of Main Office
- Dwarf St Augustinegrass – Lawn fronting Hedge Maze
- 'El Toro' Zoysiagrass – Adjacent to Carport
- 'Sunturf' Bermudagrass – Herb Garden
- Seashore Paspalum – Plumeria/Trial Garden
- Seashore Paspalum – Behind Classroom
- 'Tifway' Bermudagrass – Ecosystem

### *Ground Covers*

Over 75 ground covers are available for viewing.

### *Ecosystem Forest*

Currently under renovation, the forest will contain native and Polynesian introduced plants. Coastal, mesic, and dry land are the three primary ecosystems in the landscape. Additionally, two species of Azadirachta, or Neem Tree are in the landscape, with other non-native plants such as cotton, *Erythrina* sp., bamboo and some ferns. An amphitheater is located here for school tours to do activities.

### *Subtropical Fruit Orchard*

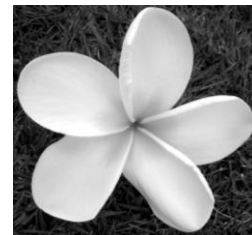
Citrus and mango cultivars occupy about half of the 4 ½ acres. Collections of guava, lychee, longan, mountain apple and avocados are examples of what is found in the orchard. Fruits such as carambola, otaheite gooseberry, chico, black sapote, abiu, wi, tamarind, jack fruit, breadfruit, and others make up for the rest of the fruit orchard.

### *Heleconia*

There are 41 different *Heleconia* sp. on display here.

### *Plumeria*

Over 70 different cultivars are in bloom during the season.



### *Herb Garden*

The original Herb Garden was designed and implemented in 1989, showcasing a variety of herbal themes in designed landscapes. Starting in \_\_\_\_\_, the original four quadrants are currently being renovated with organic gardening practices to revive the original herbal themes and show diverse landscape materials. The herbal themes, working clockwise from the front-right quadrant, are culinary, medicinal, other, and Asian spice.

### *Idea Garden*

Sample of what gardeners can grow on Oahu. UH varieties of, for example, cucumbers, soybeans, or lettuce are grown to show how these have been adapted to Hawaii's climate. Hard to find cultivars of different vegetables and grains are grown seasonally. Various containers and beds for physically challenged and senior gardeners are on display.

### *Vines*

Thirty different subtropical vines are found on fan trellises and arbors.

### *Greens/Lei*

Different plants used for lei making are found planted behind the Hedge Maze.

### Crotons

A colorful rainbow of different varieties lines the front entrance to the facility.

### Hedge Maze

Over 60 different plant materials are at the hedge maze. Plantings are spaced two feet apart. Trimming is done every 3-4 weeks.

### Compost Area

Various compost bins are being demonstrated for the home gardener. Home-made bins are also on display. Various mulches are also on display. Approximately 2,500 cubic yards of mulch are spread yearly in the garden areas. Currently, a compost demonstration site to provide compost for our gardens has been started.

### Trial Garden Site

Volunteers are allowed to garden and are encouraged to grow various crops. Produce is the property of the Urban Garden Center volunteers and staff. Winter melon, soybeans, beets, bittermelon, virus-free Tahitian taro, okra, yard-long beans, and eggplant are just a few of the common vegetables grown by volunteers. Vine-type vegetables are found growing on the trellises. School tours with advance appointments have access to visit the garden site during the year.

### Greenhouse

A 4,800 square feet shade house (20% shade in front and 80% shade in rear) is used to propagate and grow plants for future landscape projects as well as for germplasm collection of anthurium, orchids, and other ornamentals.

### Hibiscus

There are *Hibiscus* sp. cultivars with flower colors including red, pink, yellow, orange, white and colors in-between planted here.

### Children's Garden



#### 1. Pizza

Plants that are commonly found on a pizza are found in this garden, such as basil, pineapple, wheat, tomato, parsley, chili pepper, and green pepper.

#### 2. Animal

Plant collection with animal names in major categories (wild animals, farm animals, house hold pets, birds, ocean creatures and insects) are found in this garden.

#### 3. Hawaiian Alphabet Tree

Native Hawaiian trees representing the 13 letters of the alphabet (5 vowels, 8 consonants including the okina) found in the Hawaiian language are located in this garden.

#### 4. Sundial

A combination sundial and compass features have been incorporated in this garden.

#### 5. Sensory

Accessible to the physically challenged, this garden is equipped with hand railings and the only one with concrete walkways. Plants with color, texture, geometric growth and patterns are planted in two raised garden beds.

#### 6. Boardwalk

Accessed by two different bridges, visitors can walk along a unique boardwalk and see a collection of plants with varied color, shape, and texture.

#### 7. House

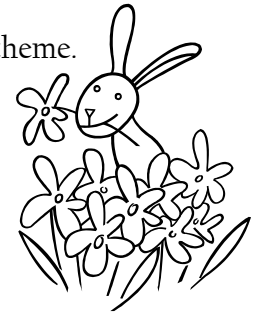
A story book house can be found here. There are five different rooms with plants associated with each room (such as bottle brush tree in the kitchen or shower tree in the bathroom).

## 8. Butterfly

Kids will enjoy walking through a caterpillar tunnel and watch Monarch butterflies hover overhead.

## 9. Alike Rabbit Garden

The tale of Peter Rabbit and Mr. McGregor was adapted for this garden theme.

*Variegated Plant Collections*

Over 12 different plants with splashes of white and green occupy this site.

*Day Lily Trial Gardens*

Different varieties of heat tolerant day lilies are shown here.

*Dryland Taro Trial Garden*

About 90 different varieties of dryland taro are exhibited here.

*Hawaiian Herbal Garden*

Organic practices are used in growing Hawaiian medicinal plants such as aloe, kukui, laukahi, and ti.

*Gardenia Garden*

Sweetly scented gardenia bushes and trees are planted.

*Bromeliad Collection*

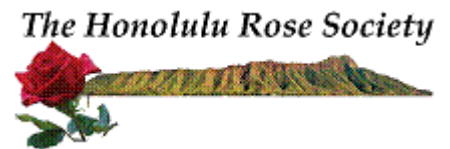
These unique plants are found in the bus turnaround area and along the sidewalk leading to our main office.

*Container Gardens*

Throughout the gardens, various containers have been arranged along pathways and around buildings.

*Rose Trial Garden*

Planted in 135 containers these 9 different varieties of hybrid tea and floribunda roses are being cared by the Honolulu Rose Society members.

*Cacao Trials*

44 trees representing 11 different varieties of cacao used in making chocolate will be planted in fall 2010. After the plants mature to producing cacao pods, demonstrations on making chocolate will be presented.

*Future Gardens*

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Bark-n Garden            | 5. Anthurium Collection |
| 2. Bougainvillea Collection | 6. Papaya               |
| 3. Conifer Collection       | 7. Labyrinth            |
| 4. Seasonal Garden          | 8. White Garden         |

*Research Activities*

A termite research plot is maintained at the facility to determine the longevity of pesticides used for subterranean termite control. There is on-going a monitoring program with trapping of fruit flies in the citrus orchard. Indigo plants are being cultivated to gather information for using plants as dyes by a master from Japan. UH researchers are monitoring varroa mites on honey bees with a lure station and active beehive and studying different growing environments for cacao. NOAA has installed a weather station recording rainfall and temperature.

### *U.H. Master Gardener Program*

The Oahu Master Gardener program disseminates horticultural information to the gardening client through phone consultation, plant clinics, demonstrations and e-mail. Walk-ins are assisted and always welcomed. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to noon Monday thru Friday (except holidays). Volunteers assist with the KCC and North Shore Farmer's Market, community promotions, the farm fair, and health fairs.

### *Garden Demonstrations*

Each month on the second Saturday, the Urban Garden Center hosts Second Saturday at the Garden, where volunteers and Master Gardeners feature a different gardening demonstration each month. For a list of demonstrations, see <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ougc/>.

### *Volunteer Program*

Currently there are about 100 volunteers. They assist in planning, construction and maintenance of the gardens, in dissemination of gardening information, construction of infrastructure and buildings, and fundraising. U.H. Master Gardeners volunteer weekdays to assist homeowners with gardening questions.

If you are interested in being a volunteer, sign up for the Volunteer Training Class by submitting your name and contact information to Bea Aragon-Balgas at 453-6050 or [ugcpc@ctahr.hawaii.edu](mailto:ugcpc@ctahr.hawaii.edu).

If you are interested in being a tour guide for adults, senior groups, school and youth tours, sign up for the Docent Training Class by submitting your name and contact information to Bea Aragon-Balgas at 453-6050 or [ugcpc@ctahr.hawaii.edu](mailto:ugcpc@ctahr.hawaii.edu).

### *Youth and Garden Program*

About 2,500 youths participate in Children's Garden tours annually. Elementary children are exposed to the flora of the facility. The annual Agriculture Awareness and Environmental Day conducted at UGC has averaged about 550 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students each year.

### *Gazebo*

An octagon shaped building measuring 24 ft. by 24 ft with shingle roof and accented with a copper cupola accents the gardens and serves as a resting place for visitors, classroom, and meeting area for the community.

### *Informational Kiosk*

An informational bulletin board for visitors of upcoming events, classes, facts, new plants, CTAHR new releases, etc.

### Staff Involved With the Urban Garden Center

Jayne Grzebik ([grzebikj@ctahr.hawaii.edu](mailto:grzebikj@ctahr.hawaii.edu), W453-6059) – Assistant Cooperative Extension Agent, Urban Horticulturist and O'ahu Master Gardener Coordinator

Steven Nagano ([snagano@hawaii.edu](mailto:snagano@hawaii.edu), W453-6054) – Cooperative Extension Agent, 4-H youth programs; ecosystem and Children's Garden Project Leader

### Support Staff

Bea Aragon-Balgas ([ugcpc@ctahr.hawaii.edu](mailto:ugcpc@ctahr.hawaii.edu), W453-6050) – Administrative Assistant

Richard Fisher – Ag Tech

Lito Cacho – Ag Tech

Ben Cacho – Ag Tech

Ethel Murata – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at the Garden!

