

Ka Lono Pua

"The Flower News"

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Service Oahu County

Cooperative Extension

New Challenges and New Opportunities

We heard a lot about the enormous potential of Y2K problems last year. The predicted disruptions never really materialized. The main reason that the Y2K bug didn't have a bite was because we were prepared. A great deal of planning done and changes were made in computers and all sorts of 'time sensitive' equipment to minimize Y2K problems.

At this time of year we are so busy with the immediate demands placed on us, we don't think much about the future. But this is the best time of year to reflect on the past 12 months and begin to plan our course for the next year. And if you don't have a five-year and a long-term plan, those merit some consideration as well.

If we plan well we can change challenges into opportunities. Knowing what problems we had in 2000 will enable us to take steps to avoid or minimize them in 2001 and beyond. If we work at it, we can even turn them to our advantage. So take time to reflect, plan, and have a happy holiday season.

In This Issue...

- ◆ ASCFG Flowers of the year
- ◆ HSI Board to meet in Honolulu
- ◆ OSHA Respirator Requirements
- ◆ How to get a HDOA Ag loan ...and more

Future Happenings

Dec 25	Merry Christmas!
Jan 1	Happy New Year!
Jan 3-5	"Soil Erosion Research for the 21st Century," an international sym. and exhibition, Honolulu
Jan 6	IPM Field Day for Vegetables, Waialua 12-3 p.m.
Jan 15	Martin Luther King Day
Jan 18-20	Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Jan 24	Chinese New Year
Jan 26-27	SARE Conference, Hilo
Feb 14	St. Valentine's Day
Feb 19	Presidents' Day
Feb 21-23	Plant Tour Days, San Diego, CA
Feb 25-27	Soc. Amer. Florists Pest & Disease Conference, Orlando, FL
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 26	Kuhio Day
Apr 2 -12	California Pack Trials
Apr 15	Easter
Apr 25	Professional Secretaries Day

ASCFG Picks “Flowers of the Year”

The Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers (ASCFG) was formed in 1988 to unite and inform growers in the production and marketing of field and specialty floral crops. Members recently selected their choices for the ASCFG Fresh and Dried Cut Flowers of the Year for 2001. Candidates for the Cut Flowers of the Year were nominated by a 12-member industry-wide panel, and the winners were selected by ASCFG members in recent elections. Uncontested - thank heavens!

The ASCFG Fresh Cut Flower of the Year 2001 is *Helianthus annuus* "Sunbright". "Sunbright" is a pollenless sunflower variety that grows 3 to 6 feet tall with rounded, golden yellow petals and brown center florets. It flowers early on strong stems. Direct sowing is recommended; however, transplants can be used to shorten production time in the field. While a final spacing of 4 x 5 inches is ideal, spacing can vary depending on the size of the flower head and branching desired. Dense spacing will yield a flower size of 5 inches and reduce side branching.

Flowering time will be about 60 days in the summer in the field on the mainland. During natural short days of winter, plants will flower more quickly with smaller discs on shorter stems. Cut stems when the flowers are 1/4 open with the petals perpendicular to the center disc. Late harvesting will result in reduced vase life. Flowers will last 7-14 days; especially if the stems are re-cut and the water is changed regularly.

The ASCFG Dried Cut Flower of the Year 2001 is *Artemisia ludoviciana* "Silver King". It has deep silver foliage and red fall color. Artemisia is a popular filler flower valued for its great color retention and pliability after drying. The foliage is aromatic and as with all fragrances, some people like it and some do not.

Plants grow up to three feet tall and spread to about three feet. They are heat and drought

tolerant, and have a heat zone rating of Zone 12 to 3. Plants are propagated by division or softwood cuttings and cut stems can be harvested the second year after planting.

Vase-life of fresh cuts is 7-10 days without preservatives, longer with floral preservatives. Cultivars are available which vary slightly in flower color, vigor, and foliage color.

Helianthus "Sunbright" was bred by Sakata Seed Corp. and is available from many flower seed suppliers. *Artemisia* "Silver King" is available as a plug from many perennial plant producers.

For 2002 the ASCFG chose for fresh flowers: Echo lisianthus series, and for dried flowers: Chief celosia series – both from Sakata Seed.

For more information about the “Flowers of the Year” or ASCFG contact Judy Laushman, ASCFG Executive Director, ASCFG, MPO Box 268, Oberlin, OH, 44074 Phone: (440) 774-2887, fax: (440) 774-2435 e-mail: ascfg@oberlin.net, or look at their web site at: <http://www.ascfg.org>.

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A grocer, a banker and a politician got lost in the woods. Eventually they came to a farmer's house and asked if he could put them up overnight.

"Sure," the farmer said. "But I've got room for only two of you in the house. The other one will have to sleep in the barn with the animals, and the smell is pretty bad out there."

"I'll sleep in the barn," the banker volunteered. Half an hour later a knock was heard on the farmhouse door, and there stood the banker, gasping, "I can't take the smell."

"All right," said the grocer. "I'll sleep in the barn." And off he went. In a while there was another knock on the door. "I've put up with some rank odors from spoiled food," the grocer complained, "but that barn tops them all."

"You two sissies," said the politician. "***I'll*** sleep in the barn." Thirty minutes later came another knock. When they opened the door, there stood all the animals from the barn.

-James Dent in Charleston, W. Va., Gazette

## Marathon II Now Available

Poinsettia growers have been relying on Marathon for a number of years for controlling whiteflies. However Marathon was sold as a 1% granular and a 60% wettable powder, and the WP could only be used as a drench. When used correctly, these products could control whiteflies for up to 12 weeks. In order to reduce the possibility of insect resistance developing, only one application per crop cycle or per year was allowed.

Merit which also contains the active ingredient imidacloprid, is labeled for use on landscape plants in landscapes. It is not labeled for use in plant nurseries or commercial greenhouses.

Olympic Horticultural has announced the registration of the liquid Marathon II Greenhouse and Nursery Insecticide for use as a foliar spray. The reentry interval (REI) is 12 hours. Besides whiteflies, Marathon II is labeled for aphids, leafminers, leafhoppers, mealybugs, and certain beetles. Olympic claims Marathon II "provides quick knockdown" and "exhibits strong translaminar systemic activity with 14-21 days residual control."

At the recommended rate of 1.7 ozs. per 100 gallons of water the cost of 100 gallons of solution would cost about \$54. For ornamentals grown outside greenhouses no more than 1.6 pints per acre per year can be used.

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The judge was trying to change the mind of a woman filing for divorce. "You're 92," he said. "Your husband's 94. You've been married for 73 years. Why give up now?"

"Our marriage has been on the rocks for quite a while," the woman explained, "but we decided to wait until the children died."

-Quoted by Joyce Brothers

HSI Board Will Meet in Honolulu

The Board of the Heliconia Society International (HSI) will meet at Lyon Arboretum on June 4, 2001. The board, which comes from all over the globe, will discuss plans for the 2002 biennial conference. Last year's conference was held in New Orleans and involved a post-conference tour to Costa Rica.

After the meeting, there will be a dinner that is open to all Heliconia growers. In addition, Lyon Arboretum will sponsor a variety of events during the week focusing on Heliconia and related genera. Further information about the dinner and other events will be sent as it becomes available.

For those not familiar with the HSI: The purpose of this group is to increase the enjoyment and understanding of Heliconia (Heliconiaceae) and related plants in the Zingiberales through education, research and communication. HSI centralizes information on these plants and distributes it to the members via its Bulletin.

Membership dues are: Individual \$35, Family \$40, Student \$10, Contributing \$50, Corporate \$100. Send all inquiries regarding membership or Bulletin purchases to: David Bar-Zvi, HSI Vice-President for Membership, Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami, FL 33156-4296. Back issues of the Bulletin are \$25 per volume.

If The Three Wise Men Had Been Women:

They would have asked directions,
Arrived on time,
Helped deliver the baby,
Cleaned the stable,
Made a casserole,
Brought practical gifts and
There would be Peace On Earth.

OSHA Respirator Requirements for Employees

There are a number of requirements for growers and others in the floriculture industry that have employees working in situations where respirators are used. Mostly these situations involve pesticide applicators, but they can also involve other workers.

If a pesticide label requires that a respirator be used or the employer deems it necessary, then the employer must do several things under OSHA regulations:

1. The person who wears the respirator must complete a medical questionnaire. The questionnaire can be found at: www.osha-slc.gov/OshStd_toc/OSHA_Std_toc_1910_SUBPART_I.html You can also contact the local OSHA office for a copy of the regulation and the questionnaire.

2. The questionnaire is then evaluated by a physician to determine whether the person can wear a respirator.

3. Employees who the physician has questions about can be asked to be seen by the physician in their office. The cost may be between \$50 to \$100 per person.

4. Once the physician okays an employee for respirator use, the employer is required to have each employee properly fitted to wear the respirator. It is better to buy respirators locally so that the suppliers of those products can do the fit testing for you. Most of these suppliers do not charge for this service since you will be buying the equipment from them. If you want to read the regulations for fitting the employees for the proper fit look at: http://www.osha-slc.gov/OshStd_data/1910_0134_APP_A.html

5. You are also required to have a respirator plan for your business. Purdue's website at <http://www.agcom.purdue.edu/AgCom/Pubs/PPP/PPP-38>. has an example. The OSHA site also has

a list of the information required in the plan in the section on Respiratory Protection.

6. When dust masks are used voluntarily, then medical evaluations are not required. However, if an employee wants to voluntarily use a cartridge respirator, then the whole process must take place just as if respirator was required by a pesticide label.

You are probably thinking this whole process is a lot of bureaucratic nonsense. But there are two reasons why this specific regulation makes some sense. Putting on a respirator may in some cases be more dangerous than the chemicals you are trying to protect the person against. Employees who are overweight, handicapped, smoke, or have chronic diseases may be really stressed when putting on a respirator, especially when on top of that you put on rain gear. If you have worn these pieces of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) you understand how they can constrict breathing.

The second reason is that a respirator is a very elaborate piece of PPE. Providing someone a respirator without a good fit test is a waste of money and gives the employee a false sense of security. By protecting your employees, you are also protecting yourself.

Information provided by Fred Whitford
whitford@btny.purdue.edu
Purdue Pesticide Programs

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A psychiatrist was treating a man whose complaint was that baseball had become an obsession. "It's so bad I can't sleep. I no sooner close my eyes than I'm out on the pitcher's mound or running around the bases. I wake up more exhausted than when I went to bed. What can I do?"

"Why don't you try dreaming of a beautiful girl in your arms," said the doctor.

"Are you crazy? And lose my turn at bat?"

-Charley Manos in *Detroit News*

## New HDOA Loan Fact Sheets Available

Recently the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), Agriculture Loan Division printed new facts sheets for their loan programs. The sheets provide information for loans to qualified farmers, new farmers, part-time farmers, aquaculture programs and food manufacturing entities. The loans to farmers require U.S. citizenship and 3 years of Hawaii residency.

The HDOA has loan officers to provide assistance and guidance on the loan process. In order to be eligible for a direct loan, applicants must be denied credit from two lenders, which include banks, savings and loan association, credit unions, mortgage loan companies, the Farm Credit system, and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A private lender may pursue a participation loan or insured/guaranty loan on behalf of the applicant. Under these circumstances the private lender will work in conjunction with the Loans Division on the loan application.

For copies of the Fact Sheets call HDOA at 973-9460, or via the internet at:  
[www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/agl.htm](http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/agl.htm)

## “Ka Lono Pua” Goes Electronic

Because the cost of mailing out “Ka Lono Pua” is high in regards to printing, producing and posting, we will happily e-mail copies to those that have access to e-mail. E-mail is faster, too - if you check your mail regularly.

So if you would like to receive “Ka Lono Pua” by e-mail, contact us so we can add your e-mail address to our listings. If you don’t have e-mail or we don’t know what it is, you will continue to receive a regular copy of “Ka Lono Pua.”

Mahalo!

If you have any questions or suggestions, give me a call at 622-4185, Tuesdays and Thursdays or e-mail me at [mersino@hawaii.edu](mailto:mersino@hawaii.edu).

Have the Happiest Holidays ever!

Edwin F. Mersino  
County Extension Agent  
Agriculture Program

### Old and new concerns for people of the baby boom generation:

Then: Watching John Glenn's historic flight with your parents.

Now: Watching John Glenn's historic flight with your grandkids.

Then: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.

Now: Trying not to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.

Then: Getting out to a new, hip joint.

Now: Getting a new hip joint.

Then: Long hair.

Now: Longing for hair.

Then: The Grateful Dead.

Now: Dr. Kevorkian.

Then: Paar.

Now: AARP.

Then: Popping pills, smoking joints.

Now: Popping joints.

Then: Being caught with Hustler magazine.

Now: Being caught by Hustler magazine.

- Where can you go to get new HDOA Loan Fact Sheets?
- What are the OSHA requirements for employee respirators?
- Are you ready for the next Marathon II?
- What is ASCFG and what flowers did they pick for 2001?
- When will HSI be returning to Honolulu?

The answer to these and many other questions can be found inside.