



Ka Lono Pua

"The Flower News"

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Cooperative Extension Service Oahu

County

Clean Up Time

The end of the year is a good time to clean up your operation in preparation for the next growing year. Discard sickly plants you have been hanging on to with the idea of reviving. Eradicate the weeds that have slowly crept into the nooks and crannies and that have started sending seed into your pots. Collect all the dead leaves, flowers, plants and other plant parts and either burn or ship them out for composting off site. All of these measures will help keep your new crop pest free and healthier.

Throw out that old pile of used pots that are now so brittle they can't be used. For that matter get rid of all the old broken benches, inoperable rusting equipment, piles of termite infested lumber, old leaking hoses, deteriorating cardboard boxes, and other debris that tends to collect around homes, farms and nurseries. Finally, check your chemical storage area. Safely dispose of old chemicals, check the containers for leaks or deterioration, and make sure your security measures are in place and operable. It will make your place safer, more efficient, easier to maintain and ultimately more profitable.

In This Issue...

- ◆ Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- ◆ Help for those affected by foreign trade
- ◆ Agricultural labor reform
- ◆ Botrytis and other diseases.....and more

Future Happenings

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| Dec 11 | DOGAH Christmas Party |
| Dec 13 | Kadomatsu Making, Foster Botanic Garden, \$18 reservations 537-1708 |
| Dec 14 | Honolulu Marathon |
| Dec 25 (Thur) | Merry Christmas! |
| Jan 1 | Happy New Year! |
| Jan 14-16 | Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show, Chicago, (847) 526-2010
www.midam.org |
| Jan 15-17 | TPIE, Ft Lauderdale FL, (800) 375-3642 www.fnga.org |
| Jan 19 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| Jan 22 | Chinese New Year |
| Feb 7 | Plant and Produce Sale, Pearl City Urban Garden Center, 8 am – 2 pm |
| Feb 14 (Sat) | Valentine's Day |
| Feb 16 | Presidents' Day |
| Mar 1-4 | Marine Ornamentals 04, Hawaii Convention Center, for info. see http://www.hawaiiagriculture.org/marineornamentals04.html |
| Mar 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| Mar 24-25 | Floriculture Conference and Field Day, Maui Beach Hotel, Maui |

Agriculture Labor Reform

A sweeping agricultural reform bill has been introduced by Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) and Ted Kennedy (D-MA), along with Rep. Chris Cannon (R-UT) and Howard Berman (D-CA). The bills, S1645 and HR3142 Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act of 2003 will reform the H-2A agricultural guest worker program. They also allow ag workers who lack proper work authorization to earn the right to permanent legal status through future work and lawful behavior.

The green industry utilizes a significant number of workers who lack proper legal status. When there are too few domestic workers available, producers turn to the present guest worker programs. Many feel that these programs are not sufficient. An estimated 70% of the seasonal labor force is fraudulently documented in the agriculture sector where the problem is the most severe.

The bills allow agricultural workers to apply for temporary resident status if they can demonstrate that they have worked 100 or more days during the 18-month period ending on August 31, 2003. Later the farm workers may apply for permanent status if they fulfill certain requirements. One of which is that they must perform at least 360 workdays of agricultural employment during the six-year period ending on August 31, 2009.

The Craig/Kennedy and Cannon/Berman bills allow workers to work in other industries for up to two-thirds of each year during the six-year adjustment period, as long as their agricultural work requirements are met. Unauthorized workers who do not apply or are not qualified for temporary resident status are subject to removal. Temporary residents, who do not fulfill the agricultural work requirement, commit a felony or 3 or more misdemeanors are denied adjustment to permanent resident status and are subject to removal.

The American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA) and the Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform (ACIR) have

been proponents for overhauling the H-2A agricultural guest worker program. Their efforts have resulted in this bipartisan agreement on legislation that was introduced to both the House and Senate on September 23, 2003.

The Essential Worker Immigration Coalition (EWIC) is working on broader reforms that would include the landscape distribution, contracting and maintenance industries. EWIC and ANLA propose the elimination of the cap on admissions under the H-2B guest worker program, as well as other reforms. The other broad reform bills being considered include S.1461 and H.R. 2899, the "Border Security and Immigration Improvement Act". Introduced by Sen. McCain (R-AZ) and Reps. Flake and Kolbe (R-AZ), these bills are not likely to be acted upon this year since congress has a number of other pressing matters. See <http://www.anla.org/> for more information.

Flagship Registered

At the end of August this year, the Environmental Protection Agency granted registration of Flagship insecticide for use in commercial greenhouses and field grown ornamental production. The active ingredient in Flagship, Thiamethoxam, is a broad-spectrum insecticide that can be soil or foliar applied for control of sucking and chewing pests. That includes whiteflies, aphids and mealybugs.

Along with Marathon (imidacloprid) and TriStar (acetamiprid), Flagship is a member of the neonicotinoid class of chemistry. Flagship is taken up systemically by the roots and translocated throughout the plant when applied to the soil. Flagship is absorbed into the foliage when applied as a spray to the foliage. It is slowly metabolized within the plant, which results in residual control of up to 6 to 8 weeks. Insects are killed when they ingest the chemical or when they come into contact with it. They usually stop feeding within hours and death typically occurs in 24 to 48 hours. See www.greenpartneronline.com for more info.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Federal Funds for Agricultural Conservation Projects

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is a voluntary conservation program that supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. It provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who install conservation practices that address natural resource concerns on agricultural lands.

Applications are now being accepted from farmers and ranchers for EQIP. **Interested farmers and ranchers have until January 2, 2004 to submit their applications to be considered for this ranking period.**

“Financial cost-share assistance funds are available to agricultural producers who are willing to implement conservation measures which treat the targeted natural resource concerns on their land,” says Lawrence Yamamoto, State Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS will provide technical assistance to help agricultural producers design, plan, and implement their conservation measures.

Many types of structural and management conservation practices are eligible. EQIP may pay up to 75 percent of the costs of eligible conservation practices. Limited resource producers or beginning farmers/ranchers may be eligible to receive up to 90% cost-share assistance. Incentive payments may be made for a maximum of 3 years to encourage a farmer or rancher to adopt land management practices (such as nutrient management, pest management, and grazing management).

How EQIP Works in Hawaii - Local Work Groups

Each year, NRCS Hawaii solicits input from local work groups throughout the state. Based on the information gathered during the assessment process, the local work groups identify priority

natural resource concerns and suggest ranking criteria to evaluate each EQIP application. They also recommend conservation practices, cost-share rates, payment levels, and funding allocation. The local work groups provide valuable input at a county or community level to address Hawaii’s priority natural resource concerns.

National Priorities

The following National priorities are to be used in the implementation of EQIP.

- Reduction of nonpoint source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds.
- Reduction of groundwater contamination and the conservation of ground and surface water resources.
- Reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment.
- Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land.
- Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation.

Priority Natural Resource Concerns in Hawaii

Based on recommendations from the local work groups and advice from the State Technical Advisory Committee, the following five resource concerns were identified as priorities in Hawaii for fiscal year 2004.

- animal waste,
- sedimentation,
- noxious weeds,
- insufficient water supply for crops or livestock,
- excess surface runoff,
- pesticide or nutrient contamination of ground or surface waters, or

- at-risk species habitat.

Eligibility

Any agricultural producer engaged in livestock or crop production on eligible land may apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes:

- * Cropland;
- * Rangeland;
- * Pasture land;
- * Private, non-industrial forestland; and
- * Other farm or ranch lands as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Applicants must also have control of the land for the contract period (between 2 and 10 years) to be eligible for participation. Contact local USDA Service Centers for complete information on eligibility requirements.

Sign-Up Periods

Interested farmers and ranchers may apply for EQIP cost-share assistance at any time during the year at local USDA Service Centers. Periodically throughout the year, sign-up periods for ranking purposes are set by the State Conservationist with advice from the local work groups and State Technical Advisory Committee. Applications received prior to or during a sign-up period are then pre-screened, evaluated and ranked for program funding.

Pre-Screening and Ranking Applications

All applications are initially pre-screened to prioritize EQIP applications for funding. All low priority applications (agricultural producers that do not have an identified priority natural resource concern) will not be evaluated and their applications will be deferred until all medium priority applications are funded. Medium priority applications will be evaluated and ranked based on criteria listed on the EQIP Application Evaluation Worksheet.

Selecting Applications for Funding

This year, applications will be ranked on a statewide basis and contracts will be awarded to the EQIP applications with the highest environmental benefit points.

In the case of a tie, the application with higher environmental benefit points per acre to be treated will receive priority.

Conservation Plan and Contract Development

NRCS will develop a conservation plan and EQIP contract for all applicants selected for funding. EQIP contracts are effective the date they are signed by a CCC Representative (NRCS Designated Conservationist) and expire 1 year after the date of the installation of the last scheduled practice.

Contract Implementation

Practices scheduled in the EQIP contract may be implemented after the effective date of the contract. Participants have the option of obtaining technical assistance for the design, application, or inspection of conservation practices scheduled in their EQIP contract from NRCS or a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP).

For more information contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center. The Aiea Field Office is at Hawaii Ag. Research Center, R.L. Cushing Bldg, 99-1193 Aiea Heights Drive, Suite 207, Aiea, HI 96701. Phone: 483-8600.

More information about the program and the necessary forms can be found at:
www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/

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The only limits are, as always, those of vision.

- James Broughton

# Payments to Farmers Affected by Foreign Trade

Under the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAA), the Department of Agriculture provides technical assistance and cash benefits to eligible producers of raw agricultural commodities.

The statute authorizes an appropriation of not more than \$90 million for each fiscal year from 2003 through 2007 to carry out the program.

A group – like the Dendrobium Orchid Growers Association of Hawaii - must first petition the Secretary of Agriculture for assistance **by January 31, 2004.**

For producers to be eligible for assistance the Secretary must determine two things. First, the national average price in the most recent marketing year for a commodity is less than 80 percent of the national average price in the preceding 5 years. Secondly, increases in imports of that commodity contributed importantly to the decline in price.

Once the Secretary determines that the eligibility requirements have been satisfied, the producers covered by the petition shall be certified as eligible for adjustment assistance.

The petition form FAS-930 may be found on the Internet at: [www.fas.usda.gov/taa/fas930.pdf](http://www.fas.usda.gov/taa/fas930.pdf). The petition can also be requested by phone at (202) 720-2916 or by e-mail at: [trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov](mailto:trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov). **Petitions are due January 31, 2004.**

Although petitions filed by the group are not easy, the applications filed by each individual grower involve a lot more paperwork. Watch out more acronyms coming!

## Application Process

After petitions are approved by Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), applications for adjustment assistance shall be made at the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Producers may request advice from FSA regarding the preparation and submission of applications. Eligible producers

will complete an FSA-229, Application for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Individual Producers, which will be available at [www.sc.egov.usda.gov](http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov) or at the local county FSA office. Applications must be received at the local FSA office within 90 days after the group has been certified eligible for TAA payments.

## Mandatory Technical Assistance

After submitting the FSA-229, producers must receive mandatory, no cost, technical assistance from the Extension Service, which may include technical publications in print or online, group seminars, presentations, and one-on-one meetings. Producers will be required to submit proof that technical assistance was received.

## Required Supporting Documentation

After submitting the FSA-229, each producer will have until September 30 of the current fiscal year to submit:

- \* proof that technical assistance from the Extension Service has been completed;
- \* acceptable production documentation; and
- \* supporting documentation including financial statements, balance sheets, and reports prepared for the IRS or another U.S. Government agency.

Financial records are needed to prove that the net farm income is less than that for the latest year in which no adjustment assistance payment was received.

## Payment Limitations

The maximum amount each producer can receive in any 12-month period cannot exceed \$10,000. Further, the total amount of payments a producer receives under this program, combined with counter-cyclical payments made under PL. 107-71, may not exceed \$65,000.

## For More Information

Additional information on the TAA is available from local USDA Service Centers or at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Beware! Botrytis and Powdery Mildew Are on the Loose

This is the time of year when a number of diseases appear on flower crops. Botrytis attacks orchids, poinsettias, petunias, roses and many other crops. There are four main species that attack most of these crops and the symptoms vary.

The most obvious symptom for many crops is a fuzzy gray, brown or black mold. In the early stages yellow spots appear on the leaves or a white or gray spot appears on the flowers.

Leaves and bracts that are turning yellow, developing spots and wilting may be infected and should be removed and discarded off-site. Fallen leaves and flowers can still be the source of spores and should be removed. If plants stay wet for 2 days or more – like Thanksgiving weekend - a huge number of spores are produced. They are spread around by wind currents and splashing water from rain or overhead irrigation systems. If poinsettia plants are heavily infected and become unsalable, they should be discarded.

Prevention is the key to controlling diseases. Monitor the crop and watch for the diseases. Provide good ventilation by proper plant spacing, and opening vents. Irrigation should be done early in the day so leaves and flowers are able to dry before nightfall. Completely remove all infected material from the nursery which includes any fallen leaf debris that may be harboring infective spores. Between crops disinfect benches, walkways, floors and other contaminated work areas.

A large number of fungicides control Botrytis including Decree, Daconil 2787, Domain, Cleary's 3336, Chipco 26019, Heritage, Manzate 220DF, Ornalin, Protect T/O, Terraguard and Zyban. Unfortunately many of these may leave a residue. Some can burn sensitive bracts and flowers. There have been reports as long as 15 years ago of resistance to some of these fungicides, so it pays to rotate fungicidal modes of action.

Another common problem at this time of year is powdery mildew. Powdery mildews are favored

by cool temperatures. Like Botrytis, it strikes a number of floral crops. The symptoms are very different however. Mildew colonies grow primarily on the epidermal layers of leaves, petioles, flower petals and stems. They usually produce small white powdery-like colonies on the surface that may radiate outward as it continues to grow. With severe infestations the whole leaf surface will be covered.

Like Botrytis there are many species that cause the powdery mildew, but generally they are more host specific. For example, the pathogen that causes problems on roses is different from the one that attacks Gerber daisy. There are some species that have a wider host range and infect many crops.

Most of the control measures for Botrytis are the same for powdery mildew. It has been reported that applying water directly to the leaves helps in preventing spore germination and mechanically washes some of the spores away. However, increasing the humidity favors powdery mildew development and may also create the perfect conditions for other pathogens – like Botrytis and Bacterial agents!

Some of the fungicides labeled for powdery mildew include Armicarb 100, Banner Maxx, Compass, Decree, Eagle, Erase, Heritage, Kaligreen, Phyton 27, Strike, Systhane, Terraguard and Triact. Read the label to make sure the label includes the crop you intend to treat, then follow the directions.

**DISCLAIMER:** This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time and are provided only as a guide. Read the pesticide label and follow all directions. Brand names are used for product name recognition and are not intended to discriminate against similar products not mentioned or to recommend only those mentioned. The author, the CTAHR, U.H., and the U.S. Dept. of Ag. assumes no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

## Poinsettia Growers!

Check out "Does It Just Look Like That Or Is It a Molybdenum Deficiency" by George Wulster in Greenhouse IPM Notes from Rutgers University. It is on-line at:

<http://rcewebserver.rutgers.edu/pubs/greenhouseipmnotes/2003/ghipmnotes13-12.pdf>

## Is "Farm Odors" Legislation Next?

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

## Annual Plant & Produce Sale

The Urban Garden Center will conduct its Annual Plant and Produce Sale on Saturday, February 7, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission and parking will be free. There will be a good selection of plants and produce. See you there!

### "Ka Lono Pua" Goes Electronic

If you would like to receive "Ka Lono Pua" by e-mail, contact us so we can add your 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."

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).

Mahalo!

Edwin F. Mersino  
County Extension Agent  
Agriculture Program

# Happy Holidays!

- Where can you go to get help from cheap foreign imports?
- What can I gain from improving environmental quality?
- What is happening to improve the labor availability?
- When is the next Hawaii Floriculture Conference?
- What are the two worst diseases to watch out for?

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