



Ka Lono Pua

"The Flower News"

Vol. XII No. 3 August 2005

Cooperative Extension Service, Oahu County

Be Safe with Pesticides

Recently, I ran across a grower that had an unlabeled pesticide container in their pesticide storage locker. The grower couldn't remember the name of another pesticide they were telling me about, which was why we were looking through their collection in the first place. Fortunately, they knew what was in the unlabeled container. But I strongly encouraged them to label the container immediately. It is easy to forget or confuse container contents when the labels fall off or degrade.

What is worse is when something happens to the person who knows what is in the unlabeled container. Or when something happens to the container when that person is not around.

No matter how safe the chemical, when it is an unknown, it has to be treated as if it is the most dangerous chemical imaginable. Consider how those who come after you would have to deal with an unknown chemical in your pesticide locker. If you have an unlabeled pesticide in your collection, label it NOW. Then come back and read on page 2 about how you can make your pesticide storage area safer.

In This Issue...

- ◆ IR-4 Ornamental Pest Survey
- ◆ New Pest ID Book Available
- ◆ Judo - More Than a Martial Art
- ◆ Chrysanthemum White Rust.....and more

Future Happenings

- Jul 29 -31 Hawaii State Farm Fair, Kapolei,
Aug 4-7 Phone (808) 848-2074
- * Aug 8 Deadline for input about CTAHR's
Germplasm Distribution Policy
- Aug 11-13 SNA, The World's Showcase of
Horticulture, Atlanta, GA.; (770)
953-3311; www.sna.org
- Aug 19-21 Made in Hawaii Festival, Neal S.
Blaisdell Center, Honolulu, HI
(808) 533-1292,
www.madeinhawaiifestival.com
- Aug 19-21 The Nursery/Landscape Expo,
Dallas, TX (800) 880-0343
www.txnla.org.
- Aug 21-24 "Int'l. Conf. on Environmental
Effects of Agricultural Practices"
[http://www.dce.ksu.edu/dce/conf/a
g&environment/](http://www.dce.ksu.edu/dce/conf/ag&environment/), Hilo.
- * **Aug 22 Heliconia Society International
Dinner and Presentation, Lyon
Arboretum.**
- Aug 25-27 Farwest Show, Portland, OR,
Phone (800) 342-6401,
www.farwestshow.com
- Aug 19 Statehood Day
- Sep 1 Deadline for Small Business
Innovative Research Proposal -
Phase 1

* See newsletter for details

Safe Pesticide Storage

When you read the news these days about kids getting hurt, or terrible vehicle accidents or even some of the terrorist actions, you have to wonder how these things happen. Why weren't they prevented? Almost all involve some sort of careless action or inaction.

Everyone is probably guilty of being in a hurry to finish something and leaving some dangerous situation for later. Later comes sooner than you think. Not too long ago I visited a grower who had a pesticide storage area without any locks. Not only is this an invitation to thieves that seem to be all too present in our society today, but it also leaves ample opportunity for children to get into an area they should be kept away from.

Another grower I visited had a pesticide container that had its label worn off. He knew what it was, but no one else would be able to figure out what was in the now unlabeled container. If something happened to the grower, those who would come after would have a major problem with that pesticide.

Here are some things you should do to make sure that your pesticide storage area is safe and secure.

- Keep all your pesticides in a securely locked cabinet or storage area.
- Locate your storage area away from other areas frequented by workers or yourself and family. Avoid areas that can be flooded.
- Make sure the storage area is well-ventilated so excess vapors, heat and moisture do not build up.
- Place a prominent, permanent sign on your cabinet or storage area indicating to emergency personnel that pesticides are inside. You can purchase signs with symbols indicating flammability and toxicity.
- Keep pesticide clean-up supplies near your storage area in case of spills. You should, at the very least, have absorbent materials, broom, shovel and plastic buckets and bags available close by.
- Keep a list of your chemicals, a copy of the labels and a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) in a safe location away from the storage area.
- Avoid storing chemicals for long periods of time. They lose their effectiveness over time and may become a disposal problem.
- Buy only what you can use in a reasonable time. Know the dilution rate before you purchase pesticides, so you can accurately estimate how long it will take to use up what you buy. Also read the labels – some pesticides can only be applied once a year.
- Mark on your label the date of purchase so you can keep track of your chemical's age.
- Keep your pesticide storage area clean. Remove unnecessary tools, equipment and supplies from the area and store them elsewhere.
- Make sure your pesticides are all properly labeled. If the labels are deteriorating, mark the container with a permanent marker listing the chemical name and formulation, active ingredient(s) and manufacturer.
- Never transfer pesticides to soft drink bottles or other containers that can be associated with something to eat or drink.

Storing pesticides safely isn't something to do when you have the time – it is something you should do all the time. Secure your pesticides today and make your storage area as safe as it could possibly be.



Heliconia Society International Dinner

Lyon Arboretum, 3860 Mānoa Road
Monday, 22 August 2005.

5:30 p.m. - Cocktails, pupus and socializing

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

Presentation by Jan Hintze on Darwin, Australia, the site of HSI's next meeting in the summer of 2006.

The following menu in the "Ozzie mod" style will be catered by Karen Miyano:

Pupus - Curry chicken "meat pies"

Dinner - Chili mint watermelon & shrimp salad

Roasted cilantro lime sweet potato wedges

Guava glazed BBQ butterflied leg of lamb

Coconut kaffir lime jasmine rice

Mixed local greens salad with hearts of palm

& Queensland nuts

Dessert - Fresh fruit trifle with ginger zabaglione

- There will be an open bar of Australian wines and beer, so following University policy minors will not be permitted to attend.
- Tickets for the dinner are \$30 per person. Mail checks (made out to Raymond F. Baker) to Lyon Arboretum, 3860 Manoa Road, Honolulu, HI 96822. Contact Ray Baker, 988-0455 or raymondb@hawaii.edu (or palmaeguy@hotmail.com if .edu is full), for details.
- Due to space limitations at the Arboretum the dinner will be limited to the first 50 participants. RSVP by 15 August 2005. Please car pool.

What's That Bug?

Here's one way to identify mysterious creatures living in your crops. The OFA (formerly Ohio Florists' Association) has published an updated version of its book "Identification of Insects and Related Pests of Horticultural Plants". This new edition has 175 color photographs on its 48 pages. The book also has life cycle illustrations and tells which life stages are the most susceptible to pesticides.

The book also includes photos of the plant injuries that are caused by the pests. It also tells where the species are found and biological controls that are available.

Raymond Cloyd of the University of Illinois oversaw the 2005 revision. The book printing is sponsored by OHP, Clearly Chemical Corp., SePRO Corp., and Dramm Corp. The book is \$24 for members; \$30 for nonmembers. To order see: <http://www.ballpublishing.com/commerce/SearchResult.aspx?rnd=28>

Judo - More Than a Martial Art

Judo is a new miticide/insecticide from Olympic Horticultural Products Inc (OHP). It recently received U.S. EPA registration for ornamental plants, flowers and foliage. OHP is in the process of state registrations and expects the product to be commercially available this summer. The active ingredient is 45.2% spiromesifen. It is effective against all life cycle stages of both mites and whiteflies. It is considered to be soft on beneficials. Judo's REI is 12 hours. It has translaminar activity and exhibits up to 21 to 28-day residual activity. It is packaged in 8-ounce containers and the recommend rate is 2-4 ozs/100 gallons of water. For more information see: http://www.olympichort.com/ohp_research_mites.html.

CTAHR's Plant Germplasm Distribution Policy

Over the last several months, we have been drafting and revising the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) plant distribution policy to make it more uniform and consistent. We have obtained input from faculty and staff within CTAHR, from the Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development (OTTED) and from others involved in similar programs at other land grant institutions.

We are now seeking comments on the draft from growers, grower associations and other stakeholders. At the CTAHR home page: <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/> we have located, under "Quick Links", a link to the page where the draft policy can be downloaded and e-mail comments can be sent. You can go directly to the draft policy page at: <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/Research/germplasm.html>

Comments will be accepted until Monday, August 8, 2005.

Submit e-mail comments to: plantpolicy@ctahr.hawaii.edu

We are especially seeking comments from growers and grower groups who may be affected by this policy. Please take the time to read through the draft and make your feelings and ideas about the draft known. Mahalo.

~~~~~

Q: "How many surgeons does it take to change a light bulb?"

A: "Why don't you just have us remove the socket. You aren't using it, and it'll only cause trouble in the future."

-Perri Klass in *Discover*

## IR-4 Seeks Input for Ornamental Pest Survey

Deadline: August 14, 2005

The Interregional Research Project # 4 (IR-4) was organized to obtain regulatory clearances for crop protection chemicals on specialty food crops. Because of the small scale of these crops, the registrants cannot economically justify investment in the required research. The program was started by the USDA 41 years ago and is now run by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in conjunction with land-grant institutions. In 1977 the program was expanded to include registration of pest control products for the ornamental industry. Their web site is at: <http://ir4.rutgers.edu/index.html>.

IR-4 works with growers, scientists and commodity organizations to identify minor crop pest control needs. Anyone can submit a research request by filling out the Project Clearance Request (PCR) form at the IR-4 web site: <http://ir4.rutgers.edu/Docs/FOODRequestForm.htm>

In response to the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), reduced risk and safer chemistry projects now account for 80% of IR-4's research. The IR-4 Project has been extraordinarily successful, with over 7,300 food use clearances, 10,600 ornamental clearances and over 300 biopesticide clearances to its credit. Since 2001, IR-4's petitions comprised 50% of the total number approved by EPA.

The IR-4 Program is now seeking more information from nurseries and greenhouses regarding diseases, insects and weeds. It has an online survey, which will be active through Aug. 15. The results of this survey will be used in part to establish IR-4 priorities for 2006 and beyond at their annual Ornamental Horticulture Workshop, Oct. 10-12 in Charleston, S.C.

The survey can be found on the IR-4 website at: <http://ir4.rutgers.edu/ornamentalsurvey/>.

## Chrysanthemum White Rust Found in Canada

The North American Plant Protection Organization reported that Chrysanthemum white rust (CWR), *Puccinia horiana* P. Henn., was found in a cut flower production greenhouse in Ontario, Canada in May. CWR is a serious fungal disease especially of common florist mums. It can lead to crop loss and could result in quarantine problems.

The disease is considered a quarantine pest by Canada. The greenhouse involved was placed under quarantine, the production area was steam treated and approximately 25,000 plants were destroyed. The infected plants were traced back, but no additional Canadian infestations were discovered and the source of CWR was not identified.

For more on invasive pest interceptions, see the North American Plant Protection Organization web site at: <http://www.pestalert.org/main.cfm>.

### **“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

- What is the insect eating your flowers?
- Where can you go to get pesticides registered for your crop?
- How can you affect CTAHR's plant distributions?
- Where can you go to learn about the next HSI meeting?
- What is the best way to store chemicals?

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