



Ka Lono Pua

"The Flower News"

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Cooperative Extension Service, Oahu County

Get Active

It is a busy time of the year for many flower growers as they prepare for the coming floral holidays. However, it is also the time of year when our governmental representatives and agencies swing into action.

In Hawaii, the state legislature is in the process of formulating hundreds of bills. Most will not make it into law, but there are some that will be enacted **and** will affect farmers and nurserymen. To learn about some of the proposals before our representatives, you can start by checking out the legislature's web site at:
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

The site will allow you to search for the bills that relate to agriculture and your area of interest. This year there have been bills proposed relating to agriculture markets and infrastructure, theft, research, organic agriculture, and genetic engineering to mention a few. From the site you can contact your representatives and give testimony on a particular bill. So **get active** and let your representatives know how you feel about the issues that affect you. Voting is only the first step in a successful democracy.

In This Issue...

- ◆ New Insecticides
- ◆ Minority Farmers Programs
- ◆ Gardenia Opportunity Opens for Hawaii
- ◆ El Niño is Back.....and more

Future Happenings

- Feb 17-20 SAF Pest Management Conference, Orlando, www.safnow.org
- Feb 21 Mon Presidents' Day Holiday
- Feb 23-25 Southern California Plant Tour Days, (760) 431-2572
www.planttourdays.org
- Mar 3-5 World Floral Expo 2005, Miami
<http://www.agriflor.com/floriculture/2005/miami>
- Mar 25 Fri Kuhio Day & Good Friday Holiday
- Mar 27 Easter
- Apr 1 -2 CTAHR 17th Annual Student Research Symposium
- Apr 4-13 California Pack Trials
- Apr 5-12 California Orchid Nursery Tour
- Apr 21 17th Annual CTAHR Awards Banquet 5:30 – 9:30 p.m., Hilton Hawaiian Village
- Apr 27 Administrative Professionals' Day
- Mar 1–May 3 Alternative Agriculture: "Tilling the Soil of Opportunity" Leeward Community College. (See page 7 for details.)
- May 8 Mothers' Day

Glorious Gardenias Market Opens for Hawaii's Growers

It's been said that the sweet, exotic scent of a single, creamy-white gardenia blossom can perfume an entire room. Perhaps best known as a corsage flower for a prom, wedding or other special occasion, gardenias also make a great gift as a potted plant. There's nothing quite like the sweet, exotic scent of a creamy-white gardenia.

With plentiful buds and dark, glossy leaves, the potted plant is an attractive addition to a deck, patio, or garden in any climate where it can thrive—including much of the southern United States.

Several years ago, federal and State of Hawaii agencies lifted a 50-year-old ban, thus allowing plant nurseries in Hawaii to ship potted gardenias or cut blooms to the U.S. mainland. Hawaii's nurseries can do that if agricultural inspectors determine that their plants are free of a tiny pest called the coffee green scale.

The change in regulations resulted in part from studies by biologist Robert G. Hollingsworth of the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center at Hilo, Hawaii, and by Arnold H. Hara, professor of entomology at the University of Hawaii.

Known to scientists as *Coccus viridis*, the soft-bodied, six-legged coffee green scale feeds on gardenia, citrus and a host of other plants, including its namesake, coffee. Adult scales are greenish-yellow ovals, about one-tenth inch in size.

For several years, Hollingsworth monitored coffee green scales in a commercial, 2-acre gardenia plot on Hawaii Island. He was particularly interested in determining whether very young scales, called crawlers, were being blown into the gardenia field by winds coming off the Pacific Ocean.

That was a popular, but unproven, notion about how plants were getting infested.

His research showed that windborne crawlers weren't the main problem. If windborne crawlers had been the cause, the infestations would likely have been more random. Instead, scale infestations resulted from incomplete control using pesticides. Admittedly, adult scales are easy to overlook.

Growers already know that careful use of chemicals to control another insect--ants--is key to long-term control of scales.

Ants of various species are scales' foremost friends. They guard scales by warding off their natural enemies—parasites and predators—and by carrying scales to non-infested plants. Ants benefit, too, because they feed on the sugary honeydew that scales secrete.

But once their plantings are free of ants and scales, Hawaii's growers can try out this new opportunity to market their tropical gardenias to stateside customers. For the thousands of people who've vacationed happily in Hawaii, the fragrance of lush gardenias from island nurseries might bring back blissful memories of those days in paradise.

This research is part of Crop Protection and Quarantine, an ARS National Program (#304) described on the World Wide Web at www.nps.ars.usda.gov.

Robert W. Hollingsworth is with the USDA-ARS Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, 920 Stainback Hwy., Hilo, HI 96720; phone (808) 959-4349, fax (808) 959-5470.

Agricultural Research, September 2004
by Marcia Wood

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“If people don't want to come out to the ball park, nobody's going to stop them.”

-Yogi Berra

## Minority Farmers Programs

Representative Ed Case is encouraging minority farmers to take advantage of this new USDA Program to enroll minority farmers so that they might take better advantage of USDA programs that can support their enterprises.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has created a new program to ensure equal access to federal farm programs and services through the creation of a national registry for minorities in agriculture.

"The USDA Farm Register is being created to help the department personally contact or send information about USDA programs directly to minority farmland owners, farmers, ranchers, tenants and other individuals involved in agriculture who are not currently enrolled in USDA loan, farm or conservation programs," said Rep. Case, a member of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee.

The voluntary register began last September. People wishing to join the register must sign and date an application that provides name and address. Providing phone numbers, e-mail address, race, ethnicity, gender and farm or ranch location will be voluntary.

"By signing onto the register, minority farmers may receive materials, newsletters, and program announcements from USDA agencies," Case said. "This will help farmers and ranchers to learn about USDA programs and services which include farm ownership and operating loans, marketing loans, conservation, and housing and rural business."

The register application is available at USDA Service Centers or from approved USDA outreach partners. The sign-up information is also available at the USDA Farm Service Agency's Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/mfr/default.htm>. Click on the word, "form" to get the one page registration form or go to: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/mfr/AD2035\\_040729V01.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/mfr/AD2035_040729V01.pdf).

## Safari and Celero – New Insecticides Approved

Two new neonicotinoids received federal registration for use on ornamentals. Both have reentry intervals (REI's) of 12 hours and both control whiteflies, aphids and mealybugs on landscape and nursery crops.

Safari (dinotefuran) from Valent Corp. is a broad-spectrum insecticide. It also controls scale, leafminers and fungus gnats. It is a 20% soluble granular formulation and can be applied as a drench, sprench or foliar spray. Safari, which can be tank mixed, is best applied before buildup of high pest populations. A 2nd application can be made 14-21 days after the initial treatment. Use Rate is four to eight ounces per 100 gallons as a spray and 12 to 24 ounces per 100 gallons as a drench.

You can download a Safari label from: <http://www.valent.com/Product.asp?industry=1&segment=GR&key=99997&src=pro>

The other, Celero (clothianidan) is from Arvesta Corp. and was just approved January 24, 2005. Its mode of action is through contact and ingestion. It is systemic and provides good residual control. Available as a 16% water-soluble granule, it has a restricted-entry interval (REI) of 12 hours. The Arvesta web site is at: <http://www.arvesta.com/>, but there seemed to be no way to acquire a label as of yet.

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A young student conducting a survey as a school exercise found that 86 percent of the respondents--when told that prolonged exposure to the substance dihydrogen monoxide in its solid form causes severe tissue damage, exposure to its gaseous form causes severe burns, and that in liquid form it has been found in excised tumors of terminal cancer patients--agreed that it should definitely be banned.

- IPMnet NEWS #129, September 2004

NOAA Announces The Return Of El Niño

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced late last year that El Niño is back but this time around in a weaker state. "El Niño conditions have developed in the tropical Pacific and are expected to last through early 2005," said Jim Laver, director of the NOAA Climate Prediction Center.

Impacts of El Niño depend on a variety of factors, such as the intensity and extent of the warming in the tropical Pacific. The NOAA Climate Prediction Center scientists noted that sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were more than 0.5 degrees C above average in the central and western equatorial. However, the SST's were below normal in the far eastern equatorial Pacific near the South American coast. The lack of basin-wide warming indicates that this El Niño is likely to be much weaker than the 1997-1998 event.

NOAA declares the onset of El Niño conditions when the three-month average sea-surface temperature departure exceeds 0.5 degrees C in the east-central equatorial Pacific.

El Niño can have significant impacts on weather around the world. In Hawaii it brings wetter than usual weather. El Niño episodes occur about every four to five years and can last up to 12 to 18 months.

Relevant Web Sites: NOAA El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Discussion at:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/

NOAA El Niño/La Niña Page at:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/

NOAA Climate Prediction Center at:
<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Gets U.S. Consensus for El Niño/la Niña Index, Definitions:
<http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories/s2095.htm>

Diazinon Sales Halted

The organophosphate insecticide, diazinon, has been one of the most widely used in the U.S. for household lawn and garden pest control, as well as for indoor residential treatments. The EPA recently issued a notice to remind retailers of the Dec. 31, 2004, stop-sale date for all **outdoor** diazinon home, lawn and garden products. All **indoor** use product registrations were cancelled and retail sales ended in 2002.

It is now unlawful to sell diazinon outdoor non-agricultural use products in the U. S. This is part of an agreement between EPA and diazinon registrants to phase out all residential uses of the insecticide. Commercial growers can still purchase diazinon products if they have a pesticide license for "Restricted Use" pesticides.

Discontinuing diazinon use in home, lawn and garden care is part of EPA's ongoing effort under the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act to reduce the risk of pesticides, especially to children.

Consumers may continue to use diazinon residential products according to label directions and precautions. If consumers choose to discontinue use, they can contact the City and County Household Hazardous Waste office at 692-5411. Commercial growers cannot dispose of their pesticides in Hawaii's hazardous waste disposal program. Do not dispose of pesticides in sinks, toilets, storm drains, or any body of water.

More information on diazinon is available at:
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/diazinon.htm> .

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And when it comes to the remarkable story of how a rust--in this case, provided by the National Heritage Trust for intentional use in Australia as a biocontrol agent to attack the imported weed Asparagus asparagoides known as bridal creeper--who could top this inspired headline: "Trust's Rust Busts Bridal Lust"?

- IPMnet NEWS #129, September 2004

# California Nursery Tour

April 5-12, 2005

- Learn about the orchid industry in California.
- See California growers' operations and their management style.
- Have some fun and see some interesting sites.



Number of Participants: 6- 12, Reservations on a first-come, first-serve basis with receipt of deposit and registration form.

Estimated Cost: \$900/person for single accommodations. \$650/person for double accommodations. Includes: 7 nights lodging, ground transportation and refreshments. **Does not include:** Meals and transportation to the mainland. Costs may be slightly more or less depending on final expenses.

Deadline for reservations: Tuesday, March 1, 2005 Deposit: \$100/person

Reservations: For the reservation form and more information contact: Ed or Lynn at the Cooperative Extension Service at 622-4185 or e-mail: [mersino@hawaii.edu](mailto:mersino@hawaii.edu)

Final Payment due: Friday, March 18, 2005



See page 6 for the tentative itinerary.

# California Nursery Tour

## Tentative Itinerary

April 5 – Tuesday 8:00 a.m. Meet at San Francisco Airport or Four Points by Sheraton SFO Airport

Visit: McLellan Botanicals Outlet (Palo Alto The Boutique), Peninsula Hybrids, Lion's Den Orchids

Other Options: White Oaks Orchids and Sunset Orchids

April 6 – Wednesday

Visit San Francisco Flower Mart

Afternoon options: Austin Creek Orchids, Fordyce Orchids, Berkley Botanic Garden and SF Conservatory of Flowers

April 7 – Thursday

Head South to visit:

Robert Bedard Horticulture, South Pacific Orchids, Inc, McLellan Botanicals' production facility

Other Options: Kieft Seeds and Goldsmith Plants/Seeds

April 8 – Friday

Visit: Matsui Nursery Inc.

Afternoon options: American Takii, Daehnfeldt, at Golden State Nurseries, Golden State Bulb Growers and Pacific Plug & Liner,

April 9 – Saturday

Drive south along Hwy 1

Options: San Luis Obispo Garden Orchids, Orchids of Los Osos, The Orchid House, Curved Air

April 10 – Sunday

Continue South to Lompoc and Santa Barbara

Visit: Rancho Chaotic Exotics, Oglevee and Bodger Seeds

April 11 – Monday

Visit: Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, Gallup and Stribling, Cal Orchids, Orchids by Rowe

April 12 – Tuesday

8:00 a.m. End at LAX Airport for return to Honolulu or other destinations.



## NxLevel™ Alternative Agriculture: “Tilling the Soil of Opportunity”

This course is aimed at those individuals who have started or are thinking of starting an agricultural-based venture that is not tied to a large scale, commodity-style production. The materials are specifically designed for the individual who is searching for innovative ideas and enhanced marketing opportunities in the area of agriculture. It is co-sponsored by the Hawaii Small Business Development Center Network. A Course Textbook and the NxLevel Workbook/Resource Guide will be provided.

### Session Outline:

- Take Stock of your Resources
- Basic Equipment Required: Planning and Research
- The Legal Terrain
- Manage from the Ground Up
- Plant It, Grow It, MARKET It!
- Reap the Benefits - Marketing Strategy
- Get Your Budgets in Line
- Analyze THESE: Cash Flow and Financial Statements
- Cultivate Your Money Resources
- Harvest Your Futures

Instructor: Gary Forth

Location: Leeward Community College,  
Room to be announced.

Tuition: \$495

To register, please call the Small Business Development Center at 522-8131

Course #: B9984

Date: Mar 1–May 3

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 6:30 pm-9:30 pm

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Heredity is what sets the parents of a teenager wondering about each other.

- Laurence J. Peter

EPA Assesses Risk Reductions for Mancozeb

Last year, EPA published the human health and environmental fate and effects, risk assessments, risk reduction options, and related documents for the ethylenebisdithiocarbamate (EBDC) pesticides. They include mancozeb (Fore[®], Dithane[®]), maneb, and metiram. The public is encouraged to comment on the risk assessments and to suggest risk management ideas or proposals to address the risks identified. The comment period closes February 22, 2005. EPA plans to complete Re-registration Eligibility Decisions (REDs) for mancozeb, maneb, and metiram by September.

The EBDCs are broad-spectrum contact fungicides used on agricultural crops, turf and ornamentals. Risks of concern exist for residential, recreational, dietary and occupational exposures. The EBDCs also pose risks to aquatic ecosystems, birds and mammals.

EPA requests public comment to refine the EBDC risk assessments, as well as input on its Preliminary Risk Reduction Options for the EBDCs. Due to the limited risk concerns associated with the EBDCs, EPA is developing the mancozeb, maneb, and metiram REDs using a 4-phase public participation process. During the comment period, the Agency plans to hold a stakeholder meeting to present and discuss EBDC risks and possible risk management options.

The mancozeb, maneb and metiram risk assessments, Preliminary Risk Reduction Options for the EBDCs, and related documents are available in docket and on the Agency’s pesticide re-registration status web page at:

www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/op/mancozeb.htm

Cathy Tarutani and Mike Kawate from CTAHR have compiled and submitted a comment package to EPA. If you send any comments to EPA, please forward a copy to Cathy at: cathy@hpirs.stjohn.hawaii.edu.

- What potted plant can Hawaii growers now send to the mainland?**
- Where can you go to learn about the California growers?**
- What new insecticides are available?**
- Where can minority farmers go for help?**

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

“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.

Mahalo!

Edwin F. Mersino
County Extension Agent
Agriculture Program