



Ka Lono Pua

"The Flower News"

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Oahu County

Cooperative Extension Service,

Innovation = Success

Recently a group of Oahu orchid growers traveled to the Big Island to visit other nurseries over a three-day period. During the visits I was struck by the number of new ideas various growers had utilized, generated themselves or were in the process of developing.

Some ideas were simple, better methods of doing everyday things like repotting orchids. Often they were utilizing new technology to produce their crops – rolling benches, movable screens, vented greenhouses, etc. Many growers were growing new niche crops, or packaging their crops in novel ways.

Everyone must make an investment in time and money in improving their operations. Now days if you continue doing the same thing, in no time you will find yourself being passed over. Innovative growers will be raising your crop more efficiently; with less expense and finding new crops that will out-compete yours. Think about how you can move ahead and start working on a plan. Continuing success will be your reward.

In This Issue...

- ◆ News from HDOA
- ◆ Flood Loan Assistance
- ◆ What's New with Roses
- ◆ Type Q-Whitefly Update.....and more

Future Happenings

- May 14 Mother's Day
- May 20-21 Art in the Garden/Plant Sale, Foster Botanical Garden, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Free.
- May 29 Memorial Day Holiday
- Jun 8-10 The Super Floral Show, Salt Lake City, UT (617) 728-0300 www.superfloralshow.com
- Jun 12 King Kamehameha Day
- Jun 18 Father's Day
- Jun 21-24 Southeast Greenhouse Conf. And Trade Show. Greenville, S.C. (877) 927-2775 www.sgcts.org
- Jul 4 Independence Day
- Jul 4 - 8 Amer. Inst. of Floral Designers Sym., Washington, D.C., www.aifd.org
- Jul 8 – 12 OFA Short Course, Columbus, Ohio (614) 487-1117 www.ofa.org
- Jun 25-28 Heliconia Society International Conf., Darwin, Australia
- Jul 20-23 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation
Jul 28-31 Farm Fair, Kapolei
- Jul 25-27 Penn Allied Nursery Trade Show
Atlantic City, NJ www.pina.com

Hawaii Department of Agriculture News

AGR-Lite Farm Revenue Insurance Product

The Agricultural Development Division and its industry partners have submitted an application to expand the AGR-Lite farm revenue insurance product to Hawaii. This program provides whole-farm revenue protection against market fluctuations as well as natural disasters such as drought or flood. This application process was coordinated by the Western Center for Risk Management Education (WCRME) and submitted as part of a package of applications from 13 states (AZ, CO, HI, KS, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY, AL, GA, FL & SC).

About 95 percent of farms in Hawaii will qualify for this product. It will be particularly beneficial to our small and medium producers. Industry partners in this application effort include the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF), the County of Hawaii's Department of Research and Development, the Hawaii Florists and Shippers Association (HFSA), the Kona Pacific Farmers Cooperative (KPFC) and the Rural Community Insurance Services (RCIS). For more information, please go to the website at:
<http://www.nyfarmersmarket.com/agrlite.html>

HDOA's Efforts in Controlling Pests on Oahu

Plant Pest Control personnel heard the call of a coqui frog at the Central Oahu Regional Park near Waipio Gentry. The park is maintained by the City & County of Honolulu, which had contracted work out to a local landscape contractor, who had recently planted a hala tree

and other plants. Follow-up visits with members of the Oahu Invasive Species Committee captured two coqui frogs in the hala tree. The area was also sprayed with citric acid and will continue to be monitored.

Plant Industry staff will be stepping up surveillance efforts for little fire ants (LFA) at Oahu nurseries using peanut butter bait sticks and other methods. Watching for LFA is particularly important to the nursery industry. HDOA requests growers cooperation and assistance in this effort. If nurseries suspect LFA infestation anywhere in Hawaii, it is imperative that they contact HDOA as soon as possible.

USDA National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program

The Market Development Branch of HDOA is administering this USDA program to reimburse organic producers and handlers 75 percent of their certification cost (up to a maximum of \$500). This is an important step in encouraging increased organic production in Hawaii. In view of the increasing demand for organic produce nationwide, these producers have the potential to create an important source of revenue for the state. As of April 1, 2006, nearly 80 applications have been processed. This represents a reimbursement of nearly \$24,000 in certification fees that will be returned to organic producers and handlers.

Applications are available for download from HDOA website at:
http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/add_md.htm

- E-News from HDOA April 19, 2006

Emergency Loans For Flood Damage

The Agricultural Loan Division of the HDOA has been meeting with farmers who are applying for low-interest emergency loans due to damage caused by the heavy rains beginning on February 20 and extending thru April. HDOA emergency loans are available up to \$250,000 at three percent interest.

The division is currently processing about 17 loans, most of which are loans of \$25,000 or less and can be approved by the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. However, loan applicants have indicated that they may require additional loan assistance as they fully assess production losses. Emergency loans for amounts greater than \$25,000 must be approved by the members of the Board of Agriculture.

For more information about the emergency loan program, contact Dean Matsukawa at 973-9460 or visit the department's website at:
http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/agl_qfarm.htm.

Federal assistance is also available from the Farm Service Agency. They have a number of programs farmers can utilize if they suffered losses between Feb 20 and Mar 26. For more information and applications contact the Honolulu County Farm Service Agency at 483-8600 ext 2 or FAX 483-8615 or on the web at:
<http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/fsa.asp>.

Wasp Parasitoid Found

Mohsen Ramadan, HDOA's exploratory entomologist, returned from a two-month search in Africa for possible biocontrol agents to combat Erythrina gall wasp (EGW). If you haven't noticed, the wasp is devastating the state's wiliwili trees by causing severe galling of the leaves. The wasp is attacking the native wiliwili trees as well as the introduced ones including the tall wiliwili used as windbreaks around many farms and fields.

Ramadan's search area included vast areas of Tanzania, where he found several parasitoids that appear to attack EGW. The trees in Tanzania do not show the same degree of galling as Hawaii's trees according to Mohsen. The wasp in Tanzania seems to be similar to the one we have in Hawaii. Colonies of the parasitoids are being reared at the HDOA's quarantine lab. Specialists are working on identifying the parasitoids. This is necessary to test for host specificity. HDOA takes special care to ensure any organism they release does not become a pest itself. It will take a year or more before any parasitoids may be released.

To read more about Eurytoma parasitoids, Ramadan and trip through Africa see: The Honolulu Advertiser, Monday, March 6, 2006
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2006/Mar/06/ln/FP603060344.html/?print=on>

Erythrina Gall

Got Botrytis?

Cool, wet weather brings a higher risk of Botrytis to ornamental crops. Mary Hausbeck a Mich. St. U. plant pathologist found that some chemical controls can be effective against this fungus. The best chemical controls in her research were chlorothalonil, fenhexamid and iprodione. Some control can also be achieved using azoxystrobin, mancozeb and

Trifloxystrobin if the disease is not too widespread.

Chlorothalonil = Daconil Weatherstick
Fenhexamid = Decree 50WDG
Iprodione = Chipco 26019 WP, F and 26GT F
Azoxystrobin = Heritage 50 WDG
Mancozeb = Dithane, Fore, Protect
Trifloxystrobin. = Compass O 50WDG

Dole is Looking For The Perfect Rose

David Murdock, owner of the Dole Food Co., is seeking the "perfect" rose: The Dole Food Co. is giving North Carolina State University \$1.4 million for a three-year study to genetically engineer a red rose that lives longer than current varieties, contains fewer thorns and produces a better aroma, the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer reported.

The research is to begin next month in Raleigh and then expand to Kannapolis, N.C., where Dole is building a \$1 billion biotechnology facility. NCSU Associate Professor Bryon Sosinski said, "We're not looking to add the gene but alter the way the plant uses the gene." A research team of six men and three women will spend the next three years developing the perfect rose.

The researchers will examine how roses are cut, shipped and handled and the water in which they are shipped in an effort to extend vase life from the current seven to 10 days to as long as three to four weeks, the Charlotte Observer reported.

If the "perfect rose" is developed, N.C. State will keep the intellectual property rights and then license the work to Dole Food Company. Dole's Fresh Flowers division, based in Miami, accounted for 4 percent of the company's \$5.3 billion 2004 revenues. Its line of fresh flowers has more than 800 varieties, and its rose plantations produce more than 250 million stems annually.

Greenhouse Product News
February 20, 2006

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The difference between reality and fiction?  
Fiction has to make sense.

– Tome Clancy

## 2007 Rose Winners

According to Weekly NMPRO, the All-America Rose Selections (AARS) named its 2007 selections. They are Rainbow Knock Out, Moondance and Strike It Rich. All three selections were rated high because of their intense flower color and disease resistance.

Rainbow Knock Out is from Conard-Pyle Co., which produced 2000 AARS winner Knock Out. The new Rainbow is supposed to be even more floriferous and disease resistant than its parent. The flowers are deep coral pink with yellow centers and fade to a light coral.

Jackson & Perkins produced the floribunda Moondance, which has creamy-white flowers contrasted by glossy, dark-green foliage. Strike It Rich is a grandiflora from Weeks Roses with deep, golden-yellow flowers swirled with ruby red and a strong, spicy fragrance.

AARS runs extensive tests over two years in gardens across the country before making its selections. This year's selections will do well in both traditional gardens and containers according to AARS president Steve Hutton.

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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*

Q Type Whiteflies Update

The Q-Biotype whitefly has been the topic of conversation at a number of recent conferences and meetings. Although new to the U.S. this biotype is already known in other parts of the world. It has resistance or reduced susceptibility to some of the standard insecticides. Those include pyriproxyfen, buprofezin, and the neonicotinoid insecticide imidacloprid that many growers currently rely on.

In March of last year Dr. Tim Dennehy from the U. of Arizona determined that the strain of whiteflies he collected from the poinsettia was the Q biotype. He characterized them as being virtually immune to the IGR pyriproxyfen (Distance), having strikingly reduced susceptibility to the IGR buprofezin (Talus) and a reduced susceptibility to the neonicotinoid insecticides imidacloprid (Marathon or Merit), acetamiprid (TriStar) and thimethoxam (Flagship).

At the SAF Pest Management Conference the University of California's Michael Parella commented that our industry is often the most affected by emerging pests. It is also being viewed as the primary culprit in their distribution around the country, he said. Entomologist James Bethke, also of UC, pointed out that the cotton industry prefers to call the Q-Biotype whitefly the "Poinsettia 04" bug.

The National Ad Hoc Whitefly Taskforce was established in part to prevent a panic and to prevent segments of agriculture being pitted against each other. This taskforce has scientists from the ornamental, cotton and vegetable industries working together and with the USDA to better understand this pest and to minimize the risk of severe regulatory action against greenhouse growers.

The scientists need data to make their case, and that can only come from growers. The task force is asking for help from growers by directing those with whitefly troubles and who want to make a biotype determination to contact Frank

Byrne at frank.byrne@ucr.edu. He will send information on sending in samples for identification.

The sampling is done anonymously. Earlier this year 21 states had "tested positive" for Q infestation. Experts expect that number to grow as word gets out. For the most current information available, as well as a sample management program for poinsettia. See: <http://www.mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/lso/bemisia/bemisia.htm>.

“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

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Married life is full of excitement and frustration:

- In the first year of marriage, the man speaks and the woman listens.
- In the second year, the woman speaks and the man listens.
- In the third year, they BOTH speak and the NEIGHBORS listen.

- ❑ What's the latest on the Q-Biotype whitefly?
- ❑ Where on Oahu were coqui frogs recently found?
- ❑ What is HDOA doing to save the Wiliwili trees?
- ❑ Where can you go to get disaster help?
- ❑ What is the best fungicide for Botrytis?

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