



# *Ka Lono Pua*

*"The Flower News"*

Vol. XIII No. 4 November 2006

Oahu County

Cooperative Extension Service,

## Cultivate Preparedness

We had a wake up call on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>. The severe earthquake that shook the state and caused a lot of damage on the Big Island caused an island-wide power outage on Oahu. The power outage had people jamming stores to purchase fuel, food, water, batteries and candles.

Fortunately no one was killed or seriously injured and for most everyone the power outage lasted less than one day. It did serve to remind us that we should be prepared for the unexpected. Were you one of those waiting in line to buy supplies?

We must do what we can to prepare for unexpected disasters and events. Spend some time considering what you and your family would need to comfortably survive not only earthquakes, but also hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, fires, pandemics and even gridlock traffic jams.

One place to look for information is the Oahu Civil Defense Agency website at: <http://www.honolulu.gov/ocda/guide2.htm>. Another good source of information is the front pages of your telephone book. Take a look and get ready for the next surprise.

## In This Issue...

- ◆ New CTAHR Publications
- ◆ Pesticide Rule Changes Proposed
- ◆ Poinsettia News.....and more

## Future Happenings

- Nov 2 – 5 Green Industry Expo, Orlando, FL., Phone (703) 536-7080, <http://www.gieonline.com/>
- Nov 7 Election Day – don't forget to vote!
- Nov 10 Veterans' Day
- Nov 11 Maui Assoc. of Landscape Professionals 10th Annual Lawn and Garden Fair; Maui Tropical Plantation, Waikapu, 808-879-9169.
- Nov 18 Lyon Arboretum Plant and Craft Fair, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. See: [wwwdev.hawaii.edu/lyonarboratum/](http://wwwdev.hawaii.edu/lyonarboratum/)
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 25 Merry Christmas!
- Jan 1 2007 Happy New Year!
- Jan 4-5 Mid-States Horticultural Expo Louisville, Ky., (770) 953-3311 [www.sna.org](http://www.sna.org)
- Jan 7-9 W Nursery & Landscape Assoc. Ann. Mtg. & Trade Show, Overland Park, KS (816) 223-1481 [www.wnla.org](http://www.wnla.org)
- Jan 10-12 Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) Baltimore, (800) 431-0066 [www.mants.com](http://www.mants.com).
- Jan 18-20 Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition (TPIE) Ft. Lauderdale, FL (407) 295-7994 [www.fnla.org](http://www.fnla.org).

# Recent Publications from CTAHR

The publications listed below by their subject category are now available for downloading from the CTAHR free publications Web page, <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/freepubs>

## Insect Pests

Alien pest alert: Stop the little fire ant. 8-panel color brochure for HDOA/CPSU use on Hawaii <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/IP-LFA.pdf>

## Landscape

Edible plants for Hawaii landscapes L-14, 13 p.  
Mature-leaf chlorosis and necrosis L-15, 6 p.  
Terminal chlorosis on landscape plants L-16, 4 p., Mel Wong. Web-only documents.  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/L-14.pdf>  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/L-15.pdf>  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/L-16.pdf>

## Miscellaneous Pests

Coqui frog control for homeowners:  
Methods to stop the spread of coqui frogs in Hawaii, Ruth DuPonte, Arnold Hara, and the Coqui Frog Working Group, 8-panel color Brochure, MP-5.  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/MP-5.pdf>

## Ornamentals and Flowers

Common gardenia, Kent Kobayashi, Andy Kaufman OF-32, 7 p.  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/OF-32.pdf>

## Pesticide Risk Reduction Education

Published in 2002 and now available in pdf format are two instructional guides for commercial pesticide applicators:

Rights-of-way weed control (PRRE-2)  
Turf and ornamental pest control (PRRE-3)  
Barry Brennan, Sabina Swift, and Charlie Nagamine  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/PRRE-2.pdf>  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/PRRE-3.pdf>

## Plant Disease

An ally in the war against nematode pests:  
Using sunn hemp as a cover crop to suppress root-knot nematodes, Cerruti Hooks, Koon-Hui Wang, Declan Fallon PD-32, 3 p.  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/PD-32.pdf>

## Soil and Crop Management

Collecting plant disease and insect pest samples for problem diagnosis, Scot Nelson, Brian Bushe SCM-14, 7 p. (Web version has photos illustrating plant symptoms. 10 p.)  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/SCM-14.pdf>

Nitrogen mineralization potential in important agricultural soils of Hawaii, Jonathan Deenik SCM-15, 5 p.  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/SCM-15.pdf>

~~~~~

“After thirty, a body has a mind of its own.”  
- Bette Midler

## HDOA Proposes Rule Changes For Pesticides

Public hearings were held in October on proposed rule changes to the Administrative Rules on Pesticides. The proposed changes eliminate rules that are no longer necessary or applicable. They also aim to better ensure the safe and effective use of pesticides while minimizing unreasonable adverse effects on the environment.

The proposed amendments also address the functional areas of pesticide licensing and classification for restricted use or monitored use pesticides, including fee increases for registration, licenses, examination and certification. Most of the changes will only affect those with Restricted Use licenses.

To view the entire proposed rule changes, go to:  
[http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/pi\\_pest\\_reg.htm](http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/pi_pest_reg.htm)  
To see a summary of the rule changes see:  
[http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/pi\\_pest\\_proposed\\_rules.htm](http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/pi_pest_proposed_rules.htm)

## CTAHR Research News

Dr. C.Y. Hu, Associate Dean and Director of Research, produces a newsletter that covers research activities at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. The latest issue has articles on the work of Dr. James Brewbaker, the dawn of the renewable energy era, and recent CTAHR research news.

It also has some interesting information on recent research projects that have been funded as well as publications that have resulted from past research. To read the October 2006 issue as well as past issues go to:  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/Research/ResearchNews.html>

## Organic Product Sales Continue to Grow

The U.S. organic industry grew 17% overall in 2005, reaching \$14.6 billion in consumer sales. Organic food sales increased 16.2%, accounting for \$13.8 billion. Sales of other organic "nonfood" products, including flowers, rose 32.5%, but only accounted for \$744 million in sales. Organic flower sales for 2005 were \$16 million, which accounted for 2% of organic nonfood sales. This was a 50% increase over the previous year. Organic personal care products was the largest organic nonfood category with \$282 million in sales, which is 38% of the organic nonfood market. Organic nonfoods are an emerging category having only accounted for 0.22% of total sales. Fruits and vegetables account for the largest portion (38%, nearly \$5.4 billion) of total organic sales.

GMPRO greEn-MAIL  
September 19, 2006

## Wet Summer Could Lead to Peat Shortage

This summer's wet weather in eastern Canada, where most of the country's peat moss is harvested, could lead to a short supply next spring. The peat harvest in western Canada has been average. According to the "Peat News" "The overall weighted-average of peat production for Canada to 31 July was less than 50% or requirements compared to the 5-year average of 60%. The weather since then hasn't improved.

~~~~~

Pollution is a crime compounded of ignorance and avarice.

- Lord Ritchie-Calder

## Pandemic and Avian Flu Information

In the last century, three influenza pandemics swept the globe. In 1918, the first pandemic referred to as the Spanish Flu, killed more than 20 million people worldwide. Pandemics in 1957 and 1968 killed millions world-wide. Scientists believe that viruses from birds played a role in causing each of these outbreaks.

Today we face a new threat. A new avian (bird) influenza virus – A/H5N1 – is spreading through bird populations across Asia, Africa, and Europe. It has infected domesticated ducks and chickens, as well as migratory birds and recently non-migratory wild birds. Avian influenza is a bird disease; however, since 2003 more than 200 people worldwide have been infected by the H5N1 virus. More than half of them have died. Most human infections to date have resulted from direct contact with infected birds.

There is concern that if the H5N1 virus develops the ability to transfer easily between humans it could spread quickly around the world. Nations

around the world are working together to address the pandemic threat by monitoring the spread of disease, developing vaccines and vaccine production and stockpiling antiviral drugs.

To provide current information about the status of avian influenza a single website has been created to serve as the official U.S. Government source of information. It can be found at: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

This Website provides up-to-date information on developing news stories, tools and resources to help individuals, families and organizations plan and prepare for an influenza pandemic.

The Website is an accurate source of information for individuals traveling through infected regions around the world and offers suggestions for safeguarding personal health while traveling. Additionally, visitors to the site can sign up to receive periodic avian and pandemic influenza news updates.

## Earthquake Recovery Loans

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture has announced that farmers suffering damage from the October 15th earthquake may be eligible for low-interest loans from its Agricultural Loan Division.

The Hawaii Board of Agriculture approved the following parameters for emergency agricultural loans:

Maximum loan amount: \$500,000  
Interest rate: 3% Loan requests of \$50,000 or less do not require credit denials from other financial institutions, which would be normally required for agricultural loans. Residency requirements have also been waived.

Under the emergency loan program, farmers needing loans of \$25,000 or less may apply for micro-loans which involve less paperwork and swifter processing.

The Agricultural Loan Division responded in a similar manner to the heavy rain and floods which occurred in February and March 2006. Currently, 45 emergency loans have been approved, totaling more than \$1.8 million. Loans approved for that disaster range from \$2,700 to \$400,000.

For more information on agricultural loans, call the Agricultural Loan Division at 973-9460. Information is also available on the division's webpage: <http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/agl.htm>

## Ag Conference Highlights

If you missed the Ag Conference that was held Oct 26-27 in Honolulu, you missed a golden opportunity to learn some valuable information. The first day's events were planned for the entire agriculture community and had four tracks: Reducing Costs, Increasing Revenues, New Paradigms, and New Opportunities. Experts from all over talked about important issues of the day and how agriculture is responding to the changing times.

The keynote speaker was Brent Warner, who is an Agro-tourism Specialist in British Columbia. He spoke about the health crisis and how nutrition and wellness are major concerns. Health is driving a large segment of the agriculture industry. He felt that Hawaii is situated in the perfect position to tie health with agro-tourism. He suggested that farmers' markets need to be developed with visitors in mind and that Hawaii needed a market place with a large fixed structure as a focal point. Warner also spoke about branding products and how important that is for Hawaii's products.

The difficult part was deciding which of the sessions in the four tracks to attend. In "The Power of One Voice", Dr. Joe Cialone, told how various organizations in Florida merged into the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA). He described the long process and some of the advantages and activities of FNGLA.

The second day focused on the floriculture industry exclusively. After updates on a number of the research projects at U.H., the keynote speaker Tom Lavagetto of the Floral Consulting Group spoke on "The Past, Present and Future of Hawaii's Floriculture". His message: Know your customer and anticipate their needs.

Overall it was a high-quality conference that will benefit all that attended.

## Poinsettia Home Stretch

Some poinsettias will be sent to the markets starting next week, but it is not a time to let your guard down. Wet weather, especially on windward Oahu, gives fungi and bacteria the perfect conditions for disease infections.

Watch your crops closely to make sure you spot the first signs of diseases. If you can, give your plants more aeration to dry the leaves quickly. Remove infected material to an "intensive care" bench away from clean plants. Identify the organism causing the problem. Treat the plants with the appropriate fungicide or bactericide in a timely fashion.

For more information on poinsettias see: <http://www.gpnmag.com/gpn/index.cfm?fuseaction=showZoneMenu&zoneID=1> and for info on the Poinsettia Scab see: [http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/Adams/gh/p\\_scab.htm](http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/Adams/gh/p_scab.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](mailto:mersino@hawaii.edu).

Mahalo!

Edwin F. Mersino  
County Extension Agent  
Agriculture Program