



# *Ka Lono Pua*

*"The Flower News"*

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Cooperative Extension Service

Oahu County

## Don't Get Nettled

In June of this year the Nettle Caterpillar (*Darna pallivitta* Moore) was found at a central Oahu nursery. In July two were found in Haiku, Maui about ½ miles apart.

In case you haven't heard of the Nettle Caterpillar, it is the larvae of a small (about ½" long) brown moth. The caterpillar grows to about 1" and has spines that when touched may cause a burning sensation. "Stings" from the caterpillar may cause allergic reactions in those who are sensitive to the venom.

Found on the Big Island in 2001 it has become established there in a number of nurseries. If you bring in plants from the Big Island be on alert for an infestation of the caterpillar. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is taking measures to prevent it from spreading to other locations. If you find any caterpillars, you can contact HDOA at the state's toll-free pest hotline: 643-pest (7378).

For more information about the Nettle Caterpillar see: <http://www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/pi/ppc/npat>. You will also find there more information about other invasive species that has entered Hawaii.

## In This Issue...

- ◆ World Orchid Conference Info
- ◆ Free Pest Management Guide
- ◆ News from HDOA.....and more

## Future Happenings

- Aug 9 – 11 SNA 2007 ... The World's Showcase of Horticulture, Atlanta GA, (770)953-3311 <http://www.sna.org/>
- Aug 23–25 Farwest Show, Portland, Oregon (800) 342-6401 [www.farwestshow.com](http://www.farwestshow.com)
- Sep 9-12 Grower Talks' Greenhouse Experience & Pest Management Conf., Cleveland, Ohio. <http://www.ballpublishing.com>
- Sep 19-20 Garden Market Expo, Las Vegas (800) 748-6214 [www.gardenmarketexpo.com](http://www.gardenmarketexpo.com)
- Sep 26-29 SAF Annual Convention, Palm Springs, CA (800) 336-4743 [www.safnow.org](http://www.safnow.org)
- Sep 27-29 Florida Nursery and Allied Trade Show (FNATS) Orlando, FL (800) 375-3642 [www.fngla.org](http://www.fngla.org)
- Oct 4-6 Florida Nursery and Allied Trade Show (FNATS) Orlando, (800) 375-3642 [www.fngla.org](http://www.fngla.org)
- Oct 5 – 7 Honolulu Orchid Show, Lanakila Elementary School Cafeteria, <http://honoluluorchidsociety.org/>
- \* Jan 23-27 19<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference, Miami, Fl. <http://www.19woc.com/home.htm>

\* See Newsletter for details.

# How To Go Organic

The Organic Trade Association (OTA) recently launched [HowToGoOrganic.com](http://HowToGoOrganic.com), a web site for farmers and processors seeking to transition to organic agriculture. The web site is designed as a clearinghouse of North American resources for farmers and businesses interested in becoming organic or in creating new organic enterprises.

In North America, consumer demand for organic products exceed the rate of organic production. The new web site will help encourage further domestic production by assembling in a single online resource the full range of available information for farmers and producers transitioning to organic.

Transitioning land to organic certification usually takes three years, and there is much research that each farmer has to undertake.

The site features two “Pathways for Organic,” one for farmers and one for processors, as well as a regional directory for the United States, and a searchable North American organic directory. The “Pathways” provide basic information on the process of going organic with links to key resources throughout North America. This unique resource is primarily designed for conventional farmers and processors who want to get started or are navigating the transition to organic production, but also provides valuable information for established organic farmers, producers, and processors.

The web site’s regional directories showcase transition resources unique to specific regions and states. Resource listings in the North American directory can be searched by topic and subtopic, by type of resource, or by state. The site also features profiles of farmers and businesses that have successfully become certified organic or that are working through the process.

The URL for the web site is

[HowToGoOrganic.com](http://HowToGoOrganic.com).

The Organic Trade Association (OTA) is the business association representing the organic agriculture industry in North America. Its nearly 1,600 members include growers, shippers, processors, certifiers, farmers' associations, distributors, importers, exporters, consultants, retailers and others. OTA encourages global sustainability through promoting and protecting the growth of diverse organic trade.

For more information on OTA see their website at: [www.ota.com](http://www.ota.com) or contact their office at:

OTA Headquarters,  
P.O. Box 547, Greenfield,  
MA 01302

Tel: (413) 774-7511 or  
FAX: (413)-774-6432

## **Grower Tool: Database For Biopesticides**

Wondering what biopesticides are available to use on your crops? The Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) has launched a biopesticide/organic data base that is searchable by crop, pest and state. Specialty crops include ornamentals, fruits, vegetables and turf. Check it out at:

<http://www.ir4.rutgers.edu/Biopesticides/LabelDatabase/index.cfm>

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The best career advice given to the young is ‘Find out what you like doing best and get someone to pay you for doing it.’

- Katherine Whitehorn

## Poinsettia Information Online

If you haven't visited Paul Ecke's web site lately, take a look. (<http://www.ecke.com/new1/>) It has information about growing poinsettias, New Guinea impatiens, violas and other crops. There are a number of bulletins and information sheets on various topics in addition to catalogues for Ecke's, Oglevee's and Flower Field's products. Topics include detailed information about their various cultivars as well as disease and insect control charts and a diagnostic key. You can also post questions on their bulletin board and Ecke's technical staff as well as other growers will answer your questions. Since Ecke purchased Oglevee in June 2006 you can go from the Ecke web site to Oglevee's to check out their cultivars.

Another major supplier of poinsettias is Fischer USA. They have an innovative option in their "Technical Support – Cultural and Diagnostics" section. Here you can select one of four options: Disease, Insect, Nutrition or Other. Each of these leads to another set of choices and those in turn lead to a detailed description of the problem, photos of the symptoms and control measures. See: <http://www.fischerusa.com/default.aspx>.

Selecta First Class's web site is located at: [http://firstclassplants.com/FCP/first\\_class\\_plants.html](http://firstclassplants.com/FCP/first_class_plants.html). They too have information on a number of crops besides poinsettias. Under "care" they have a good article on poinsettia care as well as a chart listing their cultivar's characteristics. Their site features their "Santa Claus" and the five lines of "Christmas" cultivars.

Dümmen USA produces the Red Fox series of poinsettias. Their web site which can be found at: <http://www.redfox.de/start.php> offers a more limited amount of information than the others. It does have a comprehensive document about their varieties. It also has links to their customer service staff and a list of shows in which they participate.

## 19th World Orchid Conference

The Next World Orchid Conference will be held in Miami, Florida. The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society has joined together with the South Florida Orchid Society to host the 19th World Orchid Conference, to take place January 23 – 27, 2008. The theme of the Conference is "Orchids–Nature's Masterpiece."

The highly anticipated 19th World Orchid Conference will be held in the Sheraton Miami Mart Hotel & Convention Center, 711 N.W. 72nd Avenue, Miami, FL, which is immediately south of Miami International Airport.

This newly renovated facility will house the lectures and the spectacular orchid show. Orchids by the thousands, as potted plants and cut flowers, will arrive from every major orchid growing center in the world.

World orchid conferences are held to further the cause of orchidology. There will be 72 speakers representing 18 countries and two keynote speakers to open the lecture series. There will be 6 lectures daily in each of the 3 fields: horticulture, conservation and scientific.

For more details and registration see: <http://www.19woc.com/home.htm>. For those who do not wish to register on-line, registration packets can be obtained by contacting [registration@19woc.com](mailto:registration@19woc.com) or calling 786-621-9962.

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Upset when only three of his students had listed all of the 50 states correctly on a quiz, the teacher told the class, "When I was in school we could name every one of them off the top of our heads."

"Yeah," cracked a student, "but there were only thirteen then."

-The Ohio Motorist

## News from Hawaii Department of Agriculture

HDOA was appropriated \$6 million for repairs and maintenance of the 15-mile-long **Waimanalo Irrigation System**. The system serves about 1,175 acres in the Waimanalo Agricultural Park. Improvements may include development of environmental studies, lining of open ditches, replacing ditches with pipe, reconstructing concrete lined ditches, painting of above-ground pipelines, installation of a new siphon, and clearing of access roads and paths. These improvements will enable the collection of water to become more efficient and significantly mitigate water losses in the system.

In addition, appropriations in the amount of \$250,000 were also passed for the development of a master plan for the **Kunia Agricultural Park**. The master plan will make provisions for subdivision of a 150-acre parcel of prime agricultural land into approximately 15 agricultural lots. Aside from providing agricultural lots, the Kunia Agricultural Park will help to stop the encroachment of residential development north of the Royal Kunia subdivision.

SB837 appropriated \$9.2 million for the Agribusiness Development Corporation to purchase agricultural lands in the Kunia/Ewa area. This would have been the first time a state agency has been authorized to preserve agricultural land by acquiring it from a private landowner. With the lands acquired with these funds, ADC had planned to provide long-term leases for farmers, up to 55 years, which would help allow the agribusinesses to secure financing for their operations and promote sustainable agriculture. However, the governor vetoed this bill and the veto was sustained by the legislature.

A federal quarantine for the **Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)** was issued May 2<sup>nd</sup> after the moth was found in several counties in California. The quarantine increases inspection requirements for Hawaii's plant export industry. The Plant Quarantine Branch anticipated possible problems

with states on the mainland rejecting or holding Hawaii plants. The branch quickly established an LBAM inspection policy and protocol to help plant exporters get their plants through to their customers. So far, HDOA has not been notified of any rejections due to the federal order. To view the news releases on this matter, go to: [http://www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/meetings\\_reports/news-releases/2007-news-releases/](http://www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/meetings_reports/news-releases/2007-news-releases/)

The Plant Quarantine staff recently completed testing on a **hot water treatment system for coqui frog control** on potted plants. The system utilized technology developed by the University of Hawaii – College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and an Oahu nurseryman.

The system, built at the Plant Quarantine headquarters on Oahu, was engineered as a prototype for future production. The pre-shipment treatment with hot water will prevent the transport of coqui frogs. It uses a converted maritime shipping container, where plants may be loaded and treated. Under agreement with CTAHR at Manoa, work is currently beginning on the construction of a self-contained mobile unit that would be deployed on the Big Island by the end of the year. Other permanent units are planned for Kauai, Maui and Kauai.

The following is a small sampling of recent **interceptions by Plant Quarantine Inspectors**.

April 20 – Maui inspectors treated and destroyed 216 hemerocallis and hydrangea plants due to infestation of snails. The shipment arrived via air freight from Los Angeles.

April 23 – Hilo inspectors rejected 250 Phoenix palm plants from being shipped to Oahu due to infestation of nettle caterpillar.

To visit the HDOA website see: <http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/>.

## Fungicide Pre-mixes

If you haven't run across some of the new "pre-mix" fungicides, you will. Pre-mixes are just combinations of more than one active ingredient. Banrot is an example of one that has been on the market for years. Here is a list of some of the new and old products and their components.

Chlorothalonil	Daconil
Etridiazole	Truban 35WP Terrazole 35WP
Fludioxonil	Medallion, Contrast
Iprodione	Chipco 26019, Sextant, Iprodione Pro
Mancozeb	Dithane T/O, Fore, Protect
Mefenoxam	Subdue Maxx
Myclobutanil	Sythane, Eagle
Propiconazole	Banner Max
Thiophanate-methyl	Cleary's 3336 Domain FL TopsinM, Fungo now AllBan Flo
Chlorothalonil 38.5% and Propiconazole 2.9%	Concert
Fludioxonil 32% and Mefenoxam 16%	Hurricane
Etridiazole + 15% and Thiophanate-methyl 25%	Banrot 40WP
Chlorothalonil 72% and Thiophanate-methyl 18%	ConSyst, Spectro
Mancozeb 49.6% and Thiophanate-methyl 15.6%	Zyban WSB Duosan 75WP
Mancozeb 57.1% & Mn 15% & Zn 1.9%	Protect DF
Iprodione 19.65% and Thiophanate-methyl 19.65%	26/36 Fungicide
Mancozeb 60% and Myclobutanil 2.25%	Clevis

Judge each day not by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

## Two Cool Websites

Jim Hole is a grower/retailer from Alberta, Canada, who has been keeping an interesting online journal that goes back to 2003. He has written articles on a host of subjects. You can add comments to the articles and read the comments of others. It is a fun site to spend some time. You can subscribe or check out his website at: [www.enjoygardening.com](http://www.enjoygardening.com).

"Ask A Grower" is a blog for professional growers. The author is a head grower and general manager for a medium-sized wholesale greenhouse in the Midwest. His goal is to start a discussion where growers can weigh in with their problems, challenges and successes.

It has some great production information on poinsettias, biological pest control, etc., and like Jim Hole's site you have the opportunity to comment on his articles. Check it out at: [www.askagrower.com](http://www.askagrower.com).

### "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

- Where can you go for pesticide information?
- When is the next World Orchid Conference?
- What is HDOA doing about the coqui frogs?
- Where can you find tons of info on poinsettias?
- What do caterpillars and nettles have in common?

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