



# *Ka Lono Pua*

*"The Flower News"*

Vol. XIV No. 4 November 2007

Oahu County

Cooperative Extension Service

## A Wet Winter is Coming

After the rains of the last week, it is evident that our dry summer is over. With the wet season comes increased incidence of fungal and bacterial diseases. Keeping your plants healthy means you must pay more attention to conditions that promote plant diseases and their spread.

Scout your plants frequently and also have your workers notify you when they see leaf spots, wilted plants or other disease symptoms. When you spot suspicious symptoms, isolate and quarantine the infected plants immediately. Bacteria cells can double at an astounding rate under the right conditions. Waiting a day or two to take action can spell the destruction of the crop especially if it is a young one.

Fungal spores produced by the millions can move around easily on the wind and in splashing rain and irrigation water. Keeping plants dry and allowing good aeration between plants and in the nursery goes a long way in preventing plant diseases and limiting their damage. Apply protective fungicides when environmental conditions call for them. Curative chemicals are a last resort and usually not 100% effective.

## In This Issue...

- ◆ U.H. Anthurium Takes Blue Ribbon
- ◆ Q-Biotype Silverleaf Whitefly Found
- ◆ Poinsettia Updates.....and more

## Future Happenings

- \* Nov 13 Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Conf., Sheraton, Waikiki
- \* Nov 15 Seminar: Incorporating Disease Resistant Seeds into your IPM Program, Pearl City Urban Garden Center, 6-8 pm
- Nov 22 Happy Thanksgiving!
- \* Nov 27 Seminar: Disaster Preparedness How Prepared is Your Farming Operation?, Pearl City Urban Garden Center, 6:00- 8:30 p.m.
- Dec 25 Merry Christmas!
- Jan 1 Happy New Year!
- Jan 16-18 Mid-American Horticultural Trade Show (Mid-Am) Chicago (800) 223-8761 [www.midam.org](http://www.midam.org)
- Jan 17-19 Tropical Plant Industry Exposition (TPIE) Fort Lauderdale, FL (800) 375-3642 [www.fngla.org](http://www.fngla.org)
- Jan 21-23 Central Environmental Nursery Trade Show (CENTS) Columbus, OH (800) 825-5062 [www.onla.org](http://www.onla.org)
- \* Jan 23-27 19<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference, Miami, Fl. <http://www.19woc.com/home.htm>

\* See Newsletter for details.

## IGR May Cause Poinsettia Leaf Malformation

According to Leanne Pundt, Univ. of Conn. Ext. IPM Specialist, the insect growth regulator – Distance - can cause upward leaf cupping on poinsettias. Freedom Bright and Bright Red, Winter Rose and Jingle Bells are sensitive to Distance drenches under certain conditions according to the label. Leaf malformation was more common on plants exposed to high air temperatures and on plants whose growing medium was allowed to dry out following application.

New leaf malformation is permanent, but new growth is unaffected after plants are hydrated. Malformed leaves are generally not evident at time of shipment.

Upward leaf cupping is also caused from phenoxy-based herbicides such as 2,4 D, however an improper drench application of IGR Distance can cause injury. Follow label suggestions on ways to minimize this risk and read labels carefully before application. **Do not apply Distance to poinsettias after bract formation** and note that reduced efficacy has been observed with the Q Biotype with this IGR.

See:

[http://www.negreenhouseupdate.info/photo\\_gallery/cultural\\_mistakes/cultural\\_mistakes\\_gallery\\_01.php](http://www.negreenhouseupdate.info/photo_gallery/cultural_mistakes/cultural_mistakes_gallery_01.php)

## Poinsettia Inventory Down

According to a just released HDOA survey, the poinsettia inventory for October is down 12% from last year. The survey shows the inventory was 305,000 plants down from 345,000 last year. The reduction seems proportionally spread over the various pot sizes. Red still comprises 84% of the inventory.

## Q-Biotype Silverleaf Whitefly Found in Hawaii

Earlier this year it was confirmed that Hawaii has the Q-biotype of the silverleaf whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*). The pesticide resistant whiteflies were found on gerbera and hibiscus on the Big Island. Samples sent to California from Oahu have turned out to be negative for the Q-biotype. Considering the number of plants that arrive on Oahu and the number of other alternate hosts it is very likely that the Q-biotype is on Oahu.

The main website for information about the silverleaf whitefly and links to lots of other resources can be found at:

<http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/LSO/bemisia/bemisia.htm>

The Ad Hoc Whitefly Task Force issued a letter warning ornamental growers about the growing problem of the resistant Q-biotype of silverleaf whiteflies. Some of their recommendations include:

- Scout for whiteflies on a regular basis and do not allow their populations to build
- Practice good sanitation and eliminate weeds which serve as alternative hosts
- Inspect incoming shipments and isolate infested material
- Watch your neighbor's vegetable fields for incoming whiteflies. Be alert to the insects' movements
- Study and implement the "Management Program for Whiteflies on Propagated Ornamentals"
- If you have control problems, contact your poinsettia supplier or call Ed at 622-4185.

Links to the Task Force letter and the "Management Program for Whiteflies on Propagated Ornamentals" can be found at the above website.

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Difficulties mastered are opportunities won.

- Winston Churchill

## Seminar: Incorporating Disease Resistant Seeds into your IPM Program

Jeff Sais, Seminis Seed Company  
Pearl City Urban Garden Center  
November 15, 2007  
6-8 p.m.

Please call the Wahiawa Extension Office at 622-4185 by **November 12, 2007** to register for this seminar. Participants with valid HDOA category 1a, 3, and 10 pesticide licenses will receive 2.0 re-certification credits.

Hawaii's unique climate is conducive to many pests and diseases. An integrated pest management (IPM) approach is an ecologically based system that focuses on minimizing crop losses through the use of multi-disciplinary collaboration of crop production practices and principles.

This workshop aims to educate growers about new advances in vegetable seed research at the Seminis Seed Company. Topics include:

- Introduction to IPM components (Sugano)
- How does seeds with disease resistance relate to the IPM model
- Identification: Common vegetable diseases in Hawaii: Knowing your target pest (Fukuda)
- Summary of Tomato Variety Trial in Hawaii (Valenzuela)
- Variety recommendations based on field trials
- Seminis Seed Company (Jeff Sais)
- Introduction of photo disease guides: Identifying your target pest with visual aids
- Research behind seed selection for disease resistance
- Identification of new varieties selected for Hawaii's conditions
- Treated seeds vs. seed approved for organic production:
- Understanding the difference / Proper handling of treated seeds

## Seminar: Disaster Preparedness

How Prepared is Your Farming Operation?

Pearl City Urban Garden Center  
Tuesday, November 27, 2007  
6:00- 8:30 p.m.

Please call the Wahiawa Extension Office at 622-4185 by November 21, 2007 to register for this seminar.

Natural disasters such as droughts, floods, wild fires, hurricanes, etc., can cause excessive economic damage to agricultural production. Also disasters can affect farm buildings, machinery, irrigation, family members and employees. Disasters along with marketing difficulties can lead to serious downturns in your farm income.

How prepared are you? This workshop is designed to provide you with information on preparing your operation for a natural disaster and available and affordable crop insurance programs that minimize risk associated with economic losses.

For 2008 the "Adjusted Gross Revenue" (AGR) insurance policy available in Hawaii is AGR-Lite. All Hawaii crops can be insured to some degree, but the limit is \$1,000,000.

Speakers include Jason Shitanishi of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). The FSA administers and oversees farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster and loan programs.

John Nelson from the Western Center for Risk Management Education (Washington State University) will speak on the new Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) Insurance.

Dr. Mike Fanning, Executive Vice President, AgriLogic, a specialist in Agri-Terrorism, will speak on crop insurance, farm policy analysis, and individual farm risk management. (cont'd)

(Cont'd from page 3)

Dr. Kent Fleming, an agricultural economist with the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), is an Extension Farm Management Specialist with a focus on risk management education.

The workshop is FREE and supper (sandwiches or bentos and drinks) will be provided. For more information, go to the website: <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/agrisk/>

You may also contact Kent Fleming at 808-989-3416 or [fleming@hawaii.edu](mailto:fleming@hawaii.edu) and Jari Sugano at 247-0421 x 107 or [SuganoJ@ctahr.hawaii.edu](mailto:SuganoJ@ctahr.hawaii.edu)

These educational activities are accessible for individuals with disabilities. For information or to request an auxiliary aid or service (eg. Sign language, interpreter, designated parking, or materials in an alternative format), please contact the Wahiawa Extension Office at 622-4185 seven days before the training, activity or event.

## Watch for Leaf Spot on Mums

Some garden mums may be more susceptible to bacterial leaf spot during warm, wet weather. The disease, caused by *Pseudomonas cichorii*, tends to be more of a problem during periods of heavy rains or when overhead irrigation is used.

Univ. of Mass. ext. floriculture specialist Tina Smith said key management strategies include starting with pathogen-free seed and cuttings, using resistant varieties, practicing good sanitation, avoiding overhead irrigation and not handling wet plants. Once plants are infected, it is best to rogue them.

For more information see:

[http://www.negreenhouseupdate.info/greenhouse\\_update/?p=2494](http://www.negreenhouseupdate.info/greenhouse_update/?p=2494)

## 10th Biennial Hawaii SBIR and STTR Conference –

The 10th Biennial Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Conference will be held across the state on November 13-16, 2007. **On Oahu it will be Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at the Sheraton Waikiki.** Every federal agency that makes grant awards must set aside funding for small businesses and these programs can provide early-stage funding for small innovation driven companies.

The conference will provide information on writing SBIR phase I and phase II grants. Other topics include information about intellectual property rights and how to attract private investments. There will also be time to network with federal SBIR program managers to learn about the individual SBIR agency funding priorities.

The conference is co-sponsored by Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) and the TDC Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Other supporters are: Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation; Hawaii Technology Development Venture; Enterprise Honolulu; UH Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development; Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Island Economic Development Boards; and the Hawaii Small Business Development Center Network. Click on the Sponsors link in the website below to learn more about them.

This is a great opportunity. For a small state, Hawaii does very well in obtaining funding through these programs. HTDC maintains an office dedicated to helping SBIR/STTR applicants. For more information and to register – see the web site:

[http://www.htdc.org/sbir/conference\\_2007/](http://www.htdc.org/sbir/conference_2007/).

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Opportunities multiply as they are seized.

- Sun Tzu

# E-News from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

## Seals of Quality Program Expands Online Presence

The Agricultural Development Division (ADD) has launched a section within the HDOA website showcasing the Seals of Quality (SOQ) membership. This section gives detailed information about the program and dedicates a page for each of the member companies. Each member page includes a brief description of the operation and its philosophy as well as contact information and a link to the member's webpage.

Currently, there are twenty-five companies in the program and HDOA is always looking for companies who can qualify. Please contact the ADD for additional information: (808)973-9595 or [hdoa.md@hawaii.gov](mailto:hdoa.md@hawaii.gov). See: <http://www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/add/soq>.

- August 7, 2007

## Biocontrol Studies Almost Complete for Erythrina Gall Wasp and Nettle Caterpillar

The Plant Pest Control Branch has completed host specificity testing for biocontrol agents for the Erythrina Gall Wasp (EGW) and Nettle Caterpillar (NC) and is working on completing the federal and state requirements for release of the natural enemies of these major pests.

Specimens of a parasitic wasp collected in Tanzania by HDOA's exploratory entomologist were sent to the USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Beltsville, MD. Also sent to SEL were specimens of an ectoparasitic wasp that was collected in Taiwan. Deposit into the national collection at SEL is one of the basic requirements before any biological control agent can be released in the U.S. PPC staff anticipates that the issue of release should be brought before the Hawaii Board of Agriculture in a few months.

- November 7, 2007

## Biocontrol Releases to Fight Papaya Mealybug

Big Island Plant Pest Control staff released 200 biocontrol parasitoids of the Papaya Mealybug at a papaya orchard in lower Puna. Another 200 parasitoids were also released in Opihikao.

Oahu Plant Pest Control staff report that sustained efforts to establish the papaya mealybug parasitoid across Oahu appears to be succeeding. The biocontrol appears to be now well established on Oahu and coupled with cooler temperatures and increased rainfall PM densities are expected to decrease to manageable levels.

- November 7, 2007

Note: HDOA's Division of Plant Industry is releasing some excess parasitoids on Oahu, but their main objective is saving the papaya industry on the Big Island. Contact them at 973-9530. To read more about the Papaya Mealybug see: <http://www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/pi/ppc/npa-1/npa04-03-PMB.pdf>

## Interim Rules Established to Prevent Introduction of Ohia Rust

At its August meeting, the Hawaii Board of Agriculture approved interim rules to restrict the movement of plants and plant parts in the myrtaceae family from areas that are infected with a rust that may affect Hawaii's native ohia trees. The interim rule places restrictions on the importation of plants and plant parts from the myrtaceae family, including eucalyptus, myrtle and waxflowers from California, Florida and South America. Plant Quarantine inspectors began to confiscate and destroy shipments accordingly. To view the interim order, go to: <http://www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/admin-rules/> and click on Rule 70-2.

- November 7, 2007



## UH Manoa Anthurium ‘Tropic Sunrise’ Wins First Place in National Competition

‘Tropic Sunrise,’ an anthurium bred by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at UH Manoa, has won the Blue Ribbon in the Society of

American Florists’ (SAF) 2007 Outstanding Varieties Competition.

The anthurium was entered into the “Other Cut Flowers” category by Green Point Nursery, one of the state’s largest anthurium growers. Only seven of the 49 flowers in the category took home a Blue Ribbon, including ‘Tropic Sunrise.’

‘Tropic Sunrise’ originated from a cross between two anthuriums, Anuenue and Soga Orange Obake, made by CTAHR Professor Emeritus Haruyuki Kamemoto in 1981. It was later given its name and released in 2000.

Coloration and flower size are the major attributes of ‘Tropic Sunrise.’ The orange obake, or multicolored, anthurium has a large spathe and is often over 12 inches long with a bright orange center and green perimeter. Its stems

have an average length of 30 inches. As a cut flower, the flowers last for about 32 days.

‘Tropic Sunrise’ can potentially yield about 6-7 flowers per stem per year, which is considered high for a large obake.

Kamemoto teamed up with Heidi Kuehnle, Tessie Amore, John Kunisaki, Joanne Lichty and Janice Uchida of CTAHR to develop ‘Tropic Sunrise’.

The UH anthurium research program was established by Kamemoto in 1950 to develop disease resistant and novel anthurium for the flower industry. This highly successful program, presently headed by CTAHR horticulturist Heidi Kuehnle, has released more than 40 new commercial varieties since 1963, which helped anthuriums become the state’s most valuable cut-flower crop. Cut anthuriums had a farm-gate value of \$5.4 million in 2006.

‘Tropic Sunrise’ joins the ranks of another UH product, ‘Lavender Lady,’ a 2004 SAF Blue Ribbon winner. Other UH varieties receiving ribbons in recent years are: Tropic Fire (Red Ribbon, 2004) and Kalapana (Red Ribbon, 2005).

- Honolulu Advertiser Oct 15, 2007

## Potted Anthuriums Cleared for Japan

The long-awaited approval to export Hawaii-grown potted anthuriums has been received from the Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (MAFF), paving an export avenue in one of the most difficult foreign markets to access. More than 13 years of research, discussions and negotiations have culminated in the approval which was granted on July 13th.

MAFF was concerned about the movement of reniform burrowing nematodes in potted anthuriums. With the assistance of Ralph Iwamoto, who was the USDA attaché in Tokyo,

all requests from MAFF for scientific information, draft protocols and work plans, site visits for MAFF officials and research were met.

Under the Japan-Hawai‘i Burrowing Nematode Certification Program, Hawai‘i potted anthurium nurseries must be certified by HDOA as being free from the burrowing nematode (*Radopholus similis*). Specific growing methods are outlined and periodic inspections and testing is also required to maintain the certification.

- July 13, 2007 HDOA News Release

## **Ironic Frogs - Puerto Rico Land Set Aside for Frogs**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Tuesday designated rocky stream banks and privately owned land in southeastern Puerto Rico as critical habitat for a threatened species of the coqui frog, a national symbol of the Caribbean island.

The guajon, one of 17 species of frogs in the genus *Eleutherodactylus* - known locally as coquis for the "co-kee" sound made by two types - will be protected in 260 acres of land adjacent to farms, roads and homes spanning a southeastern section of the tropical island.

All of the protected parcels are part of the historical range of the small frog and support suitable habitat for the species' conservation, according to a statement from U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

The 3.3-inch-long frog, which has been protected as a threatened species since 1997, is endemic to the U.S. Caribbean territory. Deforestation and industrial development has destroyed much of the amphibian's natural habitat, conservationists say.

Tuesday's decision was in response to a 2003 lawsuit filed against the federal agency and the U.S. Department of the Interior by the Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity.

In Puerto Rico and nearby islands, experts believe three of 17 known *Eleutherodactylus* species are extinct and seven or eight are declining.

- From Associated Press, October 23, 2007

It doesn't matter how often a married man changes his job, he still ends up with the same boss.

A perfect wife is one who helps the husband with the dishes.

## **Free Pest Management Guide**

BASF has produced a new Pest Management Guide for greenhouses, nurseries and landscapes. The free guide has charts of fungicides, pre- and post-emergent herbicides and insecticides. Each chart includes the primary target pests, chemical group, restricted entry interval and use sites. For a free copy go to BASF's website at: <http://www.betterplants.com/folders.asp?uid=1694> or call (800) 545-9525.

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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

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A man inserted an 'ad' in the classifieds: "Wife wanted". Next day he received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: "You can have mine."

- ❑ Where can you go to get information on controlling the Q-biotype silverleaf whitefly?
- ❑ What is HDOA doing to combat invasive insects?
- ❑ What insecticide can cause poinsettia leaf malformation?
- ❑ Where can you find help in preparing for the next disaster?
- ❑ What U.H. Anthurium won a national award?

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