

Ka Lono Pua

"The Flower News"

Vol. XVI, No. 1, Feb 2009

Oahu County

Cooperative Extension Service

New Year - New Plan

There is a lot of doom and gloom in the news these days. Times are difficult for many people including flower growers. One way to cope with the tough business climate is to update your business plan. What! You don't have one?

A business plan can do many things for you. It can give you a view of where you want to go and how to get there – or how just to survive in today's economy. In developing a business plan you may also get a better understanding of where you are. Business plans are often used as a basis of getting loans and support from outside backers. One important thing a business plan can do for those approaching retirement is set up a method of transferring the assets to the next generation or to new owners.

For more information on developing a business plan, you can go to <http://www.extension.org/> which is the Extension website that is packed full of information. One great publication on business plans can be found at: <http://www.sare.org/publications/business/business.pdf>.

In This Issue...

- ◆ New Publications from CTAHR
- ◆ New All-American Rose Selections
- ◆ AGR-Lite Revenue Insurance
- ◆ Disaster Assistance.....and more

Future Happenings

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Feb 12 | DOGAH Meeting, 7:30 HDOA Board Room. |
| Feb 14 (Sat) | Valentine's Day |
| Feb 16 | Presidents' Day Holiday |
| * Feb 19-21 | SAF 25 th Pest Management Conf., San Jose, CA www.safnow.org (703) 836-8700. |
| Feb 28 | Ho'omaluhia Plant Sale, 9-noon |
| Mar 5 | Ag Awareness Day, Pearl City Urban Garden Center. |
| * Mar 15 | Deadline for qualifying for Agr-Lite |
| Mar 17 | St. Patrick's Day. |
| Mar 10-12 | World Floral Expo, Miami, www.worldfloralexpo.com |
| Mar 20-22 | Santa Barbara Internat. Orchid Show, www.sborchidshow.org |
| Mar 26 | Prince Kuhio Day Holiday |
| Mar 28-Apr 3 | California Pack Trials, Various sites in California |
| Apr 3-4 | CTAHR Student Research Symposium |
| Apr 12 | Easter |
| Apr 22 | Administrative Professionals Day |
- * See Newsletter for details.**

All-America Rose Selections for 2009

The All-America Rose Selections (AARS) for 2009 are Carefree Spirit, Cinco de Mayo and Pink Promise.

All-America Rose Selections is a nonprofit association dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. The AARS runs the world's most challenging horticultural testing program and consistently recognizes roses that will be easy to grow and require minimal care by today's busy homeowner.

Recognizing that consumers want roses that are easy to care for, in 2004, AARS stopped spraying fungicides on all shrub roses in its nationwide test gardens. Carefree Spirit is the first and only landscape shrub to date to endure this real-world testing and prevail as a Winner. This mounding rose produces deep red blossoms with white twinkles in their eyes; the blooms finish pink as they bask in the sun. Carefree Spirit amplifies the disease resistance associated with its Carefree lineage, with more than ten years of hybridization improvement. Much like its parent rose, Carefree Delight™, which was an All-America Rose Selections Winner in 1996, the petals are beautifully set amongst abundant glossy, dark green foliage; however, it has even better disease resistance, habit and blooming power, and will perform well in any area of the country.

Carefree Spirit was hybridized by Jacques Mouchotte, director of research at Meilland International and introduced by Conard-Pyle Co. of West Grove, Penn.

Cinco de Mayo brings fiesta of flowers to every garden. Mysteriously colored and deliriously novel...it's an indescribable blending of smoked lavender and rusty red-orange. This festive rose may be impossible to describe but you'll love the endless bounty of multi-colored clusters sitting amongst clean, glossy green foliage and dark red new growth. The flowers, which hold well and are fast to repeat, radiate the smell of fresh-cut

golden apples. As an AARS Winner, this floribunda has fantastic disease resistance and has performed exceptionally well across the country with little-to-no care. As the offspring of the 2006 AARS award-winning Julia Child rose, Cinco de Mayo enlivens any garden, and it's clean, round habit is ideal for use as a hedge or in a border with mixed perennials.

Cinco de Mayo was hybridized by Tom Carruth and is introduced by Weeks Roses of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

Pink Promise – a graceful bloomer with long stems for cutting – will promise that your garden is a stunning spectacle this year. Most impressively, the National Breast Cancer Foundation selected this rose to officially represent a continual blooming promise of compassion and awareness. For every Pink Promise plant purchased, a percentage of the sales will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation to help extend women's lives through education and early detection. This hybrid tea's beauty is enhanced by the contrast of its large pink blossoms set against lush dark green foliage. Along with its stunning appearance, Pink Promise has good disease resistance, and flourishes even in cooler climates. A highly fragrant rose, Pink Promise fills any room with a deliciously fruity scent.

Pink Promise was hybridized by Jim Coiner and introduced by Coiner Nursery of Lavern, Calif.

To see photos of the 2009 winners see: <http://www.rose.org/>.

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“Money doesn't always bring happiness. People with ten million dollars are no happier than people with nine million dollars.”

- Hobart Brown

## Disaster Assistance

Residents and businesses on Oahu whose property sustained damage during the severe storms and flooding, that occurred between December 10 - 16, 2008, may now register for assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Federal disaster assistance is approved only for the Dec. 10 - 16 storm. It does NOT include losses suffered from the December 26, 2008 power outage.

To qualify, the resident must register with FEMA. Registration can be done online at <http://www.disasterassistance.gov/> or by telephone, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week until further notice. Use the disaster number 1814 to expedite the registration process.

Individuals could be eligible for rental assistance, home repair grants and low interest loans after they register with FEMA. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and covers the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged property.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Businesses may borrow up to \$2.0 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. For small businesses only, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

For more information, please call the SBA Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).

## AGR-Lite Deadline March 15

Adjusted Grow Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) is a whole-farm revenue protection plan of insurance. The plan provides protection against low revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations that affect income during the insurance year. Most farm-raised crops, animals, and animal products are eligible for protection.

AGR-Lite can stand alone or be used in conjunction with other Federal crop insurance plans, except Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). When producers purchase both AGR-Lite and other Federal crop insurance, the AGR-Lite premium will be reduced.

AGR-Lite uses a producer's 5-year historical farm average revenue as reported on the IRS tax return (Schedule F or equivalent forms) and an annual farm report as a base to provide a level of guaranteed revenue for the insurance period.

It provides insurance coverage for multiple agricultural commodities in one insurance product. And it establishes revenue as a common denominator for the insurance of all agricultural commodities.

The Government will pay a portion of the premium for the AGR-Lite policy that equals 48 to 59 percent. The insurance is provided against loss of revenue due to any unavoidable natural occurrence during the current insurance year or due to market fluctuations that cause a loss of revenue during the current insurance year. No payment will be made for losses due to negligence, mismanagement or wrongdoing.

For an information fact sheet on the program see: <http://www.agrlite.com/>. And for a list of crop insurance agents, visit U.S.D.A.'s Risk Management Agency's online agent locator at: [www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents](http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents).

# Rat Lungworm Spread by Snails and Slugs

Recently, there have been reports in Hawaii of a disease called angiostrongyliasis caused by a parasitic worm *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* also known as the rat lungworm. This disease affects the brain and spinal cord and has caused comas in two people on the Big Island.

The worm's adult stage is found in rodents. Infected rats pass the immature larval stage in their feces. Snails and slugs become infected by ingesting the larvae in the rat feces. These larvae mature in the snails and slugs, but do not become adult worms. The life cycle comes full circle when rats eat infected snails and slugs and the larvae further mature to become adult worms.

Angiostrongyliasis can be contracted by eating food contaminated by the larvae stage of the worms. These worms can be found in raw or undercooked snails, slugs, prawns and land crabs. People can also get infected accidentally by eating raw produce that contains a small snail or slug or part of one. It is not known whether the slime left by infected snails and slugs can cause infection. Angiostrongyliasis is not spread person-to-person.

Some people do not have any symptoms, or have mild symptoms for a short time. The rare but serious form of the infection is a type of meningitis. The symptoms of angiostrongyliasis usually include severe headache and stiffness of the neck and back, tingling or painful feelings in the skin, nausea and vomiting. Low-grade fever and temporary paralysis of the face may also be present. Light sensitivity may also occur.

The symptoms can last from a few days to several months. They usually start 1 to 3 weeks after exposure to the parasite.

There is no specific treatment for this disease. The parasite dies over time, so the infection is self-limiting. Supportive treatment and pain medications can be given to relieve symptoms. Patients are sometimes treated with steroids.

There is no evidence that a person develops immunity to repeated infections with this parasitic worm.

To avoid contracting angiostrongyliasis do not eat raw foods contaminated with snails or slugs. If you must handle these mollusks, wear gloves and wash your hands thoroughly afterwards. Washing produce may not remove all infectious larvae, so avoid eating anything that you know has been contaminated by snails or slugs.

Boil suspect snails, prawns, fishes, and crabs for at least 3 to 5 minutes, or freeze at 5° F (15° C) for at least 24 hours; this will kill the larval stage of the worm.

For more information, see the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's fact sheet at [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/angiostrongylus/factsht\\_angiostrongylus.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/angiostrongylus/factsht_angiostrongylus.htm).

## Freight Charges Could Increase 10 Percent

American Nursery & Landscape Association recently brought attention to a blog post that discusses how rate hikes at FedEx and UPS will impact the green industry. Charlie Hall, the Ellison Chair in International Floriculture at Texas A&M University, noted in his "Making Cents" blog that the number of large trucks in operation has decreased by 130,000, or 7% of the total U.S. fleet. He predicted that, as shipping demand rebounds ahead of the ability to put trucks back on the road, this could lead to freight increases of as much as 10%. FedEx and UPS have already announced rate increases for 2009. FedEx will increase its net average shipping rate for FedEx Express by 4.9%; UPS customers will see an average 5.9% increase for Ground and Ground Hundredweight shipments.

The Weekly Dirt, for 22 December, 2008

## **Pink Hibiscus Mealybug Pheromone Licensed**

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has granted an exclusive license to South Carolina Scientific, Inc., to produce and market an ARS-developed insect sex pheromone. The pheromone can help control the pink hibiscus mealybug, a crop pest that causes up \$750 million in damage annually to U.S. crops. Work is now underway to improve the process for chemically producing the pheromone.

The pink hibiscus mealybug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus*) causes severe economic problems worldwide by attacking a wide range of plants, including vegetable and citrus crops, forest trees, and many species of ornamental plants. This mealybug is native to Asia, but appeared on U.S. soil in 1984 in Hawaii via imported cargo. It was found in California in 1999 and reached Florida in 2002.

The sex pheromone, placed inside sticky traps, effectively monitors and traps mealybug males in the field by drawing them into the traps. By luring males to traps, the sex pheromone would provide a much more economical, convenient, and useful detection and monitoring tool.

There's also a second potential control strategy. Aijun Zhang, who developed the pheromone, found that relatively high concentrations of the pheromone repel males away from the source. In this scenario, the pheromone could control the pest by disrupting mating.

Another advantage of the pheromone is that natural enemies, or biological controls, of the pest aren't lured to the pheromone source. This allows scientists to chart the effectiveness of the biological controls used to combat the mealybug without artificially concentrating these natural enemies near the traps.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2008/081216.htm>  
- Sharon Durham

## **Conference to Focus on New Pest Control Options**

The theme of SAF's 25th annual Pest Management Conference, Feb. 19-21, in San Jose, Calif., is "Discover Powerful New Options in Pest Control." The conference will offer more than 25 educational sessions covering the most effective options for pest and disease control.

Attendees will learn how to: use chemicals less often and more effectively; increase insecticide and fungicide effectiveness; deal with treatment-resistance problems; halt invasives and emerging pests; control parasites with banker plants; better diagnose diseases; and adjust fertilization for better pest control. Attendees will have an opportunity to examine the latest tools and products and to obtain answers to their plant health questions. More than 20 states certify the SAF program and attendees can earn credits toward pesticide applicator recertification. An optional grower tour of local production operations will occur Feb. 19.

GMPRO greEn-MAIL, for January 8, 2009

## **New Plant Disease Publications from CTAHR**

|                                                    |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Plumeria rust                                      | Rust of lemongrass |
| Anthraxnose of avocado                             | Citrus melanose    |
| Citrus scab                                        | Sooty mold         |
| Black leaf streak of banana                        |                    |
| Postharvest rots of banana                         |                    |
| Phytophthora blight of papaya                      |                    |
| Glyphosate injury to coffee plants                 |                    |
| Java black rot of Okinawan sweetpotato             |                    |
| Hawaiian mistletoes ( <i>Korthalsella</i> species) |                    |
| Fairy rings: toadstools, stinkhorns, and puffballs |                    |

See the CTAHR website for these publications  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/PIO/FreePubs/FreePubs08.asp#PlantDisease>

## Second Saturday at the Garden!

Join the O'ahu Master Gardeners and UGC 'Ohana Volunteers at the Pearl City Urban Garden Center for Second Saturday at the Garden.

Featuring a new tropical gardening topic each month (See topics below);

- Learn about home gardening in Hawai'i from certified Hawai'i Master Gardeners and UGC Volunteers.
- See how the Master Gardeners are renovating our herb garden the organic way.
- Got a plant question? Certified O'ahu Master Gardeners will be available every second Saturday to answer your gardening questions.
- Guided tours of our display gardens.
- Mini Plant Sale.

February 14, 2009, 9 AM – 12 PM

**Urban Garden Center Plant & Produce Sale!**  
Featuring: Fruit Tree Grafting Demonstration!  
(Starts promptly at 10:30 AM, UGC Classroom)  
Plants for sale propagated by Master Gardeners and UGC Volunteers from the collections at the Urban Garden Center! Many different plants at great prices. All proceeds go back to the Urban Garden Center Gardens!

March 14, 2009, 9 AM-12 PM

### **Integrated Pest Management for Home Gardeners**

Certified Master Gardeners, Brian and Imelda Cyr, will demonstrate practical environmentally sound pest control options for the home gardener.

April 11, 2009, 9 AM-12 PM

Happy Easter! There will not be a program at the Urban Garden Center this day.

May 9, 2009, 9 AM -12 PM

### **Lei Day in the Garden!**

Make Ti leaf leis and Ti leaf rosettes to take home. Exhibits on lei plants and how to grow them in your home garden! Special presentation by The Garden Hula Dancers!

June 13, 2009, 9 AM -12 PM

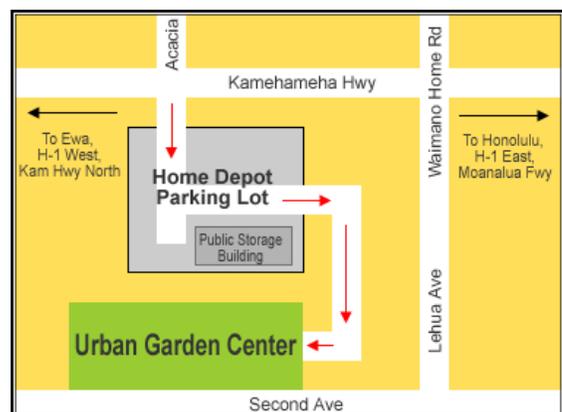
### **University of Hawai'i Vegetable Seeds**

Learn about local seed sources and disease resistant varieties of UH Vegetable Seed. Take home seeds to start your own vegetable garden. Free to the public, no reservations required. Please bring hat, sunscreen, and water.

For more information or directions, please call 453-6050 Or email : [OahuMg@ctahr.hawaii.edu](mailto:OahuMg@ctahr.hawaii.edu)

Directions to the Urban Garden Center:

1. From Kamehameha Highway in Pearl City, turn into Home Depot parking lot (across from Acacia Rd).
2. Enter through the gate adjacent to the "Public Storage Building" on the Diamond Head (East) end of the Home Depot parking lot.
3. Visit the Main Office for information and directions.



# Free Unwanted Pesticide Disposal Program

Do you have unwanted pesticides because they are old and no longer registered? Do you have unwanted pesticides because you no longer grow the crop for which they were used? Do you have unwanted pesticides because the label is gone from the container and you don't know what it is? Now is your chance to safely get rid of them.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is funding a program for the collection of unwanted pesticides. The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) and a representative from the Landscape Industry of Hawaii are handling all the publicity, and in coordination with the contractor, are responsible for the registration process. The HFBF made it clear to HDOA that farmers may be reluctant to participate in the program if they thought a government agency was actively involved in the collection.

The program is free up the first 200 pounds. Above 200 pounds there will be a charge of approximately \$2 per pound.

The free program requires that growers register by January 31, 2009. But if you **send in the registration form immediately** the contractor will still accept them.

The contractor will set up collection sites on various islands once they determine the need. For more information about the program and to download the registration form, go to the HFBF's web site at: <http://www.hfbf.org/>. The forms are also available at the HFBF, pesticide dealers, the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, Enviro Services and Training Center, the Hawaii Pest Control Association and by calling the CES office at 622-4185.

Ornamental flower growers will be eligible to participate. For information on the registration program, please contact HFBF at 848-2074, Dr. Janet Ashman at 1-808-877-6916 or Gregory Perry of EnviroServices & Training Center, LLC, the contractor for the project, at 839-7222.

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Unfulfilled prophecies:

- The place will be crawling with great-looking girls.
- When it says empty, there are always a couple of gallons left.
- Counting drinks and tip, you'll pay thirty dollars tops.
- They'll feel wonderful once you break them in.
- We're bringing it in right under budget.
- You can assemble it yourself in minutes.
- It won't feel cold once you dive in.
- You'll housebreak him in no time.

-Quoted by Bill Haupt in *Enterprise*

If you would like an e-version of "Ka Lono Pua" send an e-mail message to mersino@hawaii.edu.

If you have any questions or suggestions, give me a call at 622-4185, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Edwin F. Mersino
County Extension Agent
Agriculture Program

- Where can you get rid of unwanted pesticides?
- What is the rat lungworm and why should you be concerned?
- Where can you go for disaster aid?
- What crop insurance will cover all kinds of losses?
- Where can you go to learn about the latest pest control options?

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