

Chris Dacus



Shampoo Ginger
formerly known
as 'Awapuhi

Photos: Forest & Kim Starr

WHAT'S IN A NAME

There's been a surge of professionals and consumers over the past 10 years actively seeking to utilize native plants for their homes and landscaping projects. Most folks are aware and comfortable using the tried and true fifteen or so native and canoe plants like Naupaka, Hala, Pohinahina, Ti, Ohī'a, Kukui, 'A'alii, Hapu'u, 'Uki'uki, Koa, 'Akia, Kalo, Koki'o, Maile, Milo, and 'Ilie'e. Plus often these are the only native plants

available if they are available at nurseries and consumer big boxes like Home Depot or Lowes.

Unfortunately there are many nonnative plants over the years that have been given Hawaiian names. This has led to years of confusion among both consumers and landscape professionals. It's time to call these plants by their common names.

Here's some of the commonly used nonnative plants with Hawaiian names.

| LOCAL NAME | BOTANICAL NAME | COMMON NAME | NATIVE HABITAT |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Pakalana | <i>Telosma cordata</i> | Chinese violet | India |
| Kiawe | <i>Prosopis pallida</i> | Mesquite | U.S. Southwest |
| Loulu | <i>Pritchardia pacifica</i> | Fiji Fan Palm | Fiji |
| Puakinikini | <i>Fagraea berteroa</i> | Australian Gardenia | Other pacific islands |
| Pikake | <i>Jasminum sambac</i> | Arab Jasmine | Saudi Arabia |
| Ali'ipoe | <i>Canna indica</i> | Indian Shot | Tropical America |
| Wai'wi | <i>Psidium cattleianum</i> | Strawberry Guava | Brazil |
| Koa Haole | <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> | White Leadtree | Mexico, Guatemala |
| 'Awapuhi | <i>Zingiber zerumbet</i> | Shampoo Ginger | India and the Malay Peninsula |
| Laua'e | <i>Phymatosorus grossus</i> | Musk Fern | Parts of Oceania and tropical Asia, not a canoe plant |
| Liliko'i | <i>Passiflora edulis f. flavicarpa</i> | Yellow Passionfruit | Amazon region in Brazil |
| Maile Pilau | <i>Paederia foetida</i> | Stinkvine | East Asia |
| Hawaiian Wood Rose | <i>Merremia tuberosa</i> | Woodrose | Mexico and Central America |
| Kahili Ginger | <i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i> | Himalayan Ginger | Himalaya |
| 'Awapuhi melemele | <i>Hedychium flavescens</i> | Yellow Ginger | Himalaya |
| Prince Kuhio Vine | <i>Ipomoea horsfalliae</i> | Cardinal Creeper | West Indies native |
| Ni'oi or Hawaiian Chili Pepper | <i>Capsicum annuum</i> | Chili Pepper | North America and South America |
| Ka'u orange | <i>Citrus sinensis</i> | Orange Tree | Southeast Asia |
| 'Ohai ali'i | <i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> | Dwarf Poinciana | Tropics and Subtropics of the Americas |
| Kikania | <i>Xanthium strumarium var. canadense</i> | Cocklebur | North America |
| Kukunaokala | <i>Rhizophora mangle</i> | Red Mangrove | Tropical America |
| Pua melia | <i>Plumeria species</i> | Frangipani, Plumeria | Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America |
| Lokelani | <i>Rosa chinensis</i> | Rose | Southwest China |

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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C23741



Musk Fern formerly known as Laua'e

Take the time today to share this list with your design, webmaster and nursery staff and make sure today is the last day that your business is adding to the confusion of what's native and not. Start using the correct common names. Change your website, drawings, publications, specifications, catalog, and plant tags. Don't speak them again and definitely don't give another nonnative plant a Hawaiian name. Let's fix this once and for all. We can do this!

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Chris Dacus is a landscape architect and arborist for the Hawaii Department of Transportation and the president of LICH.



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