



## 'Centennial' Anthurium

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**A**nthurium cultivar 'Centennial', UH1272, is a dual-purpose cut flower and potted plant selection named in celebration of 100 years of higher education in the Hawaiian Islands. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, flagship campus of the University of Hawai'i system, celebrates a century of educational achievements arising from a foundation built on the study of the agricultural sciences. UH Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is the descendant of that founding college.

'Centennial' recognizes in particular the contributions that research in tropical flower breeding has made to the rich agricultural heritage of Hawai'i. Release of nearly forty cultivars by the UH anthurium breeding program has helped boost anthurium to be the number 1 cut flower produced in the state.

'Centennial' has a small, white spathe with green stripes (veins) and a green tinged back on which the color becomes more prominent with maturity. The green and white coloration of 'Centennial' is representative of the university's colors. The green veins coming together to form one flower could symbolize the diverse cultures that represent the life-blood of the university. The unusual tulip-shaped spathe is reminiscent of the flame that appears in the middle of the UH seal, with its upward sweep symbolic of the university's quest for academic excellence. The green "nose" or spadix situated in the middle of the flower could represent the verdant Hawaiian Islands in the middle of the Pacific. This hybrid has four *Anthurium* species in its background, *A. andraeanum*, *A. lindenianum*, *A. amnicola*, and *A. antioquiense*, thus drawing on the unique and invaluable genetic resources of the UH flower-breeding program.

Some obake tendency and unusual spathe elongation has been noted in older plants of 'Centennial'. While the shift in flower size and shape appeared at first to be

undesirable for a cut flower, designers have since recognized the potential of the "transition color" and shapes of 'Centennial' for striking bridal bouquets or other arrangements. 'Centennial' has an upright, green-yellow spadix with a dark green stipe and flower stem. Yield is approximately six flowers per plant per year. The plants have short internodes, tolerance of bacterial blight, good sucker production, and attractive, triangular, dark green leaves. These attributes are notably desirable for flowering potted plants. Prolific offshoots, however, can result in dense ground beds, suggesting wider initial spac-



ing at planting than is usual, or use of grow-bags for cut flower cultivation. The flowers have good vase life: 21 days, including 3 days of packing, and 26 days if treated with a dip or spray of 100 ppm benzyladenine (BA or BAP). The main reason for flower discard is browning of the spadix. Susceptibility to anthracnose is noted, with a range of small to large lesions. Use of lower light conditions appears to facilitate micropropagation in tissue culture. Mature plants tested for container production in 6–8-inch pots showed suitability for a long-lasting upright display that performs well in an interior setting.

'Centennial' is an offspring of a complex cross between the white X lavender hybrid 570-77 ([ 'Uniwai' x *A. lindenianum*] x *A. amnicola*) and the light pink A494 (*A. andraeanum* x *A. antioquiense*). 'Centennial' shares its A494 parentage with other recent blight-resistant UH releases, such as 'Pumehana' and 'New Era'. Plants performed well in preliminary trials during the 1990s and thus were distributed to CTAHR's Waiakea Research Station and to grower-cooperators for expanded cut flower and potted plant testing from early 2003 through 2006. Mother flasks of propagules are expected to be delivered to the Hawaiian Anthurium Industry Association in 2007.

### Acknowledgment

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### Characteristics of 'Centennial' anthurium

#### **Spathe**

Size and shape	Tulip-type spathe 4¾" long, 2½" wide
Color	White with green veins, coloration becoming more prominent with maturity
Position	150 degrees from stem

#### **Spadix**

Size and shape	Straight, 180 degrees from stem, 2½" long, ¼" wide
Color	Yellow-green, maturing to white
Flower stem	14" long, ⅜" wide, ¼" long stipe
Yield	6.2 flowers per plant per year

#### **Leaf**

Blade	8½" long, 6" wide
Petiole	12" long, ¼" wide
Internode length	Short

<b>Sucker production</b>	Good
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<b>Disease tolerance</b>	Resistant to bacterial blight; susceptible to anthracnose
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<b>Keeping quality</b>	(includes 3 days packing)
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No BA	21 days (300 stems)
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BA	26 days (257 stems)
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<b>Other</b>	Dual-use cut and potted plant; containerized production
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