



'Mauna Loa' Anthurium

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Multicolored ("obake") flowers are a standard component of the color assortment offered by many anthurium growers and retailers. Field tests of the green and white obake anthurium selection UH1155 show it to be a desirable cutflower with year-round production of glossy spathes having excellent vase life. This attractive selection is named 'Mauna Loa' to complement the popular white obake 'Mauna Kea' and the relatively small white obake 'Tropic Ice', both previously released by the UH-CTAHR Department of Horticulture. Characteristics of 'Mauna Loa' are given below.

'Mauna Loa' originated from an open-pollinated 'Tropic Ice'. The seedling was selected in March 1987 for observation and evaluation, and it was increased by aseptic culture in 1992. Tissue-cultured plantlets were transferred to CTAHR's Waiakea Research Station in 1994 for growing out, and over 100 individual plants each were given to grower-cooperators in East Hawaii for advance testing in fall 1996 and 1997. Performance of plants at all advance-test sites was good. Evaluation was completed in summer 1999, and mother flasks of propagative materials will be released.

A major attribute of 'Mauna Loa' is the outstanding vase life of about 56 days (unpacked). Vase-life trials conducted over a two-year period with 252 dry-packed flowers also showed excellent keeping quality (40 days). Other attributes include resistance to anthracnose, tolerance of bacterial blight, and ease of micropropagation. 'Mauna Loa' yields about six flowers per plant per year on straight and sturdy stems. There are few white obakes available with such good yield and long vase life.



Characteristics of Anthurium 'Mauna Loa'

Spathe		
Size and shape	medium to large, roundish, open lobes	8 inches wide, 10 inches long
Color	white with green	
Spadix		
Size and shape	3 inches long, 3/8 inch diameter;	curved downward
Color	yellow-green turning white	
Flower Stem	erect, 26 inches long, 3/8 inch diameter	
Yield	5.9 flowers per plant per year	
Leaf		
Blade	12 inches long, 6 1/4 inches wide; heart-shape	
Petiole	15 1/2 inches long, 1/4 inch diameter	
Internode length	short	
Sucker production	fair	
Disease tolerance	tolerant of bacterial blight;	resistant to anthracnose
Keeping quality		
Fresh cut	56 days	
Dry packed	39.5 days (includes 3-day simulated dry pack)	