Work update at Lawai infestation site

Upcoming control work is scheduled to continue the week of August 13, 2007. Crews will be arriving mid-morning and working until around 9:30 pm.

Field crew work is scheduled for August 13, 14, 15, and 16.

This last week, the crew was plagued with mechanical problems with one of the spray pumps. With lower than usual pump pressure, the crew was unable to apply hydrated lime daily as a ground drench because of the inability to disturb leaf litter with the spray. Before the pump gave out they were able to do some lime application in section 11.

The crew was, however, able to apply citric acid as both a ground drench and foliar spray. They worked in sections 7, 13, and sections 18-22.

The crew is reporting that the area is really quieting down and few frogs are being heard when they leave the site at night.

This week, with the pump repaired, the crew plans on applying lime in sections 12 through 22. Citric acid spraying will continue in sections 2-6, 10, and sections 12-22.

We are also going to have a site visit this week from a select group of state legislators. A review of work, a quick tour and a demonstration of citric acid application is planned.

Also coming up is the Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair from August 23rd to the 26th. Come by and check out our information booth. The coqui crew will be there to answer questions and pass along information regarding this pest.

Report a Pest: 643-PEST

Management Area Map

The map to the left shows the entire infestation area. This area has been broken into management units, and numbered accordingly.

Work at the site will reference these numbers.

If you hear calling frogs in an area near you, please contact our office so that we can schedule treatment in that unit.

Duane Patricio with the spray gun

Contact Phone Numbers:

- **KISC**: 246-0684 (from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm)
- **Crew Supervisor**: 651-8781
- **Hawaii Department of Agriculture**: 274-3069
- **Pest Hotline**: 643-PEST

Tidbit

Unlike the common coqui (Eleutherodactylus coqui), the golden coqui (Eleutherodactylus jasperi) is the only frog species in the New World family Leptodactylidae definitely known to give birth to live young.
**What eats the coqui frog?**

In its native Puerto Rico, predators of E. coqui include native birds, snakes (Puerto Rican racer, Alsophis portoricensis) as well as large arthropods such as spiders (giant crab spider, Olios sp.) and scorpions.

Giants crab spiders will attack and kill E. coqui by jump attack and lethal injection. When threatened, E. coqui juveniles take refuge in the leaf litter and undergrowth on the forest floor. Adult coquis are camouflaged in the foliage of the forest by their markings and sedentary habits. (["Invasive Species Database", 2005; Duellman and Trueb, 1986; Stewart and Woolbright, 1996].

Eleutherodactylus coqui is important to the health of the Puerto Rican forest ecosystem. Large invertebrate predators, such as spiders, rely heavily on E. coqui for prey. Birds and snakes also rely on them for consumption. E. coqui functions as a secondary predator, preying on ants and crickets, as well as a tertiary consumer, eating spiders and centipedes. ([Stewart and Woolbright, 1996](http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/200704coquiworknotificatinpolicy.pdf)

In Hawaii, the release of a coqui predator has low potential for success in controlling widespread frog populations. Most predators eat more than one prey species and thus an introduced predator may have significant unintended effects on native species. Even an ideal predator that would only prey on coqui frogs, would likely not eradicate coqui frogs. As frogs became rare in the environment, the predator population would likely decrease allowing frogs to increase ([Holling 1973, May 1973](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Eleutherodactylus_coqui.html)).

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**Airline passenger finds live frog in salad**

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) -** Australian carrier Qantas said Tuesday it has changed its lettuce supplier after a passenger on a flight from Melbourne to Wellington found a live frog in her greens.

The one inch Australian whistling tree frog didn’t get a chance to hop away. The woman plunked the lid back on her meal preventing any escape.

The Qantas plane’s crew notified the Quarantine Service while the plane was still in the air and officials were waiting when it landed at Wellington Airport.

“I’m afraid the frog was euthanized” in a freezer, service general manager Fergus Small told National Radio.

Quarantine officials made a check of the airplane “but no other frogs were detected,” he said.

A Qantas spokesman told National Radio that the airline had changed its supplier since the February incident. Tree frogs were common in the area where the lettuce was grown.

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**Informational Links**

Please visit the following sites for more info:

- Work Notification Policy:
  [http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/200704coquiworknotificatinpolicy.pdf](http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/200704coquiworknotificatinpolicy.pdf)

- [http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Eleutherodactylus_coqui.html](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Eleutherodactylus_coqui.html)


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"You doofus... we're tree frogs!"