Work update at Lawai infestation site

Upcoming control work is scheduled to continue the week of April 14, 2008. Crews will be working during daylight hours and up until around 9:30 pm.

Field crew work is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, April 14 and 15.

This past week the crew sprayed lime in sections 7 and 8. Citric Acid was applied just outside of section 18 as well as spot sprayed in section 4 on two calling frogs. Calling frogs were also heard in section 17, 14, 13, and at the end of Uwila Place. These frogs will be the focus of next week’s work at the frog site.

All things considered, progress at the infestation site looks very good. We were expecting frogs to be calling as they matured and as the weather warms up, but calling is limited and sparse.

Thank you to those who continue to help us locate calling frogs. This reporting helps us to plan our weekly work at the frog site.

The frog cages still house several calling frogs but they have not been drawing any female frogs.

This week the crew will apply herbicide outside of section 18 (which they couldn’t do last week because of rain).

They will also apply hydrated lime in section 13 and spot-spray citric acid anywhere calling frogs are heard, focusing on the calling frogs from last week.

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

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.

Tidbit

The common American bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana) is the largest American frog and can catch and eat young birds and fish.
Bizarre Lung-less Frog Found

The first lung-less frog has been discovered lurking in the jungles of Borneo.

The enigmatic amphibian, dubbed Barbourosls Kalimantanensis, apparently gets all the oxygen it needs through its skin.

Scientists first saw one of these frogs 30 years ago, but due to their rarity, just one other specimen had been collected since then and neither had been dissected.

"No one thought to open them — there was no real reason to believe that they could be lung-less," said researcher David Bickford, an evolutionary biologist at the National University of Singapore. "Because these specimens were so rare, they had never been dissected. If you have just one specimen in your museum, you don't want to rip it open!"

The amphibians, no more than 2 inches long, have proven elusive because they live in cold, fast rivers in remote areas of the rainforests of Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo. Also, they are slippery and can be surprisingly fast for short bursts," Bickford said. "We had a team of 11 people looking for these frogs and it took us almost two weeks before we found any."

He and his colleagues had no idea this frog would be lung-less.

"I was just going to be happy if we simply rediscovered the frogs." Bickford said. "It had been 30 years of intermittent searching for this frog until we could put together a multinational team and get to the last remaining areas where it could realistically be found."

As Bickford and his colleagues went snorkeling in the rivers where the frogs live, the water proved so cold that "after just 45 minutes of snorkeling, I would have to stop because I was shaking uncontrollably, my lips were blue, and my breathing became too labored to actually snorkel effectively," Bickford told LiveScience. "This is lowland rain forest in Borneo, just off the equator, and I had hypothermia! That certainly was something I was not entirely prepared for."

"There are so many difficulties in field work, and yet it remains my biggest joy," Bickford added. "Having the undeniable privilege of going out to these remote sites, seeing some of the last and greatest treasures that exist in the wild, and then getting to study them — well, every day I feel lucky."

As the researchers were doing initial dissections of the frogs as they caught them in the field, they were surprised to discover these amphibians lacked lungs.

To Read More:
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23996711/

Zoo’s New Tree Frogs of Value to Humans

In 1790, John W hite first described these Australians in the book "Journal of a Voyage to New South W ales" and sent a few home to England. W hen the Aussies arrived there, they were given the scientific name Litoria caerulea. It proved to be a misnomer, for W hite’s tree frogs are usually green and caerulea is Latin for blue. Damaged by preservatives, the specimens had turned bluish by the time they arrived in England.

At the Pueblo Zoo, one of the most valuable and - fortunately - still common frog species clings to the glass walls of its aquarium in the Mahlon T. W hite Discovery Room. Unafraid of humans, these frogs are often seen inside houses, in lavatories or sinks, or on windowwalls; they make a cocoon of this mucus and sloughed epidermis and burrow.

Since they do not usually live near water, yet must have moisture in order to absorb oxygen through their skin, they’ve evolved methods to avoid desiccation in the dry season. One way is to store large amounts of water absorbed through their loose, unusually thick, rolling skin folds. Their resultant fatty appearance inspired the nickname Waxy mucus secretions moisten their skin; to keep moist in drought they may make a cocoon of this mucus and sloughed epidermis and burrow.

Because pathogens thrive on their moist skin, increasing the chance of infection, their secretions have peptides whose anti-bacterial and anti-viral properties show promise for human medicine. The secretions contain caerulins, which have the same effect as CCK-8, a digestive hormone and hunger suppressant. A newer substance has been used to treat high blood pressure, and yet another has been found to destroy HIV without harming healthy T-cells.

To read more go to:
http://www.chieftain.com/life/1207548000/3

Informational Links

Please visit the following sites for more info:

• Work Notification Policy:
  http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/200704coquiworknotificationpolicy.pdf

• http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23996711/

• http://www.chieftain.com/life/1207548000/3