

Landscaping Professional's Guide to Stopping the Spread of Coqui Frogs on Maui Do Not Transport or Sell Infested Plants



Coqui frogs (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*) are about the size of a quarter. The body is rounded. Coqui are native to Puerto Rico.

- Coqui can reach densities of 8,000+ per acre and eat an average of 47,500 prey per night per acre.
- Coqui could provide food source for snakes.
- Males emit loud two-note mating call (90-100 decibels) at night.
- Coqui seemed to prefer bromeliads, but have also been found in other types of plants growing at sea-level to 4,000 ft. elevation.
- Coqui are illegal to import, breed, keep as pets, sell or export in Hawaii.

Prevention:

- Inspect production areas regularly to prevent coqui from invading and becoming established.

If you have just a few coqui at your place of business:

- **Hand capture.** Shortly after sunset, try to hone in on coqui calls, then look carefully on or under twigs, branches, and leaves. Be aware that coqui can throw their voices away from where you hear them. Grab them quickly. Another method is to place a short length of clear tubing over the coqui, cover the top end, and tap the side so the frog will jump into it. Place the coqui into a container and close the lid. The most humane way to kill the coqui is to place by placing them in hot soapy water or in the freezer, then dispose.
- **Spray 16% citric acid.** Citric acid is available in 50 lb. bags from BEI Hawaii. Citric acid must be sprayed directly on the coqui to be effective. Be sure and follow the label's instructions. See www.hear.org/frogs/ or www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/coqui/ to learn more. To avoid damage to plants, thoroughly rinse treated plants with fresh water about a half hour after spraying.
- **Treat with hot water.** Shower landscape plants with hot water (113° F) to flush frogs from infested plants and then hand collect them. Place potted plants in a sink or tub and shower for 3 minutes, followed by 1 minute of cold water to cool off the plant. This treatment will kill any coqui or their eggs. Be sure to measure the water temperature, because cooler water is not effective and water that is too hot may damage the plant. If you have your hot water heater set to "warm," your hot water should run at about 120°.
- **Treat with vapor heat (113° F) and >90% humidity.** This method kills coqui and their eggs. Healthy plants with no pesticide residue tolerate heat treatment extremely well.

If coqui are well-established at your place of business:

- Spray all landscape and potted plants with citric acid or hot water. Eliminate possible hiding places for coqui. Do not transport or sell infested plants.

Report sightings to 573-MISC(6472). Contact the Maui Invasive Species Committee to report sightings and control efforts so that we can track the spread and containment of the coqui frogs on Maui.

Note: Use of brand names/or companies does not imply an endorsement of product or company. MISC assumes no liability for damage to non target plants or animals or for any human contact with products.

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