

Got Frogs? What You Can Do

Photo: MISC

<u>Description</u>	<u>Problem</u>	<u>Prevention</u>	<u>Control</u>	<u>Report</u>
<p>Coqui frogs (<i>Eleutherodactylus coqui</i>) are native to Puerto Rico and have been invading Maui since 1997.</p> <p>Frogs are round, about the size of a quarter and may grow up to 2" long.</p> <p>Brown or gray-brown with variable patterns, including a light stripe down the middle of its back.</p> <p>Found in all types of vegetation from sea-level to 4,000'.</p> <p>Coqui frogs hide in leaf litter during the day and emerge to elevated perches at night.</p> <p>Males emit loud two-note mating calls (90 - 100 decibels) at night which can be equivalent to a lawnmower running all night long!</p>	<p>There are no natural predators to keep populations in check.</p> <p>Populations can reach densities of 10,000 individuals per acre.</p> <p>The coqui's loud call destroys the peace and tranquility of the Maui night. Residents and visitors have a difficult time sleeping.</p> <p>Coqui frogs consume huge quantities of insects, but rarely mosquitoes, disrupting the balance of Maui's vulnerable native ecosystems.</p> <p>Coqui frogs are a potential food source for snakes and other invasive predators.</p> <p>Some economic impacts are unhappy tourists decreased local and export plant sales, lower property values, and increased disclosure requirements for property sales.</p>	<p>Ask if plants are coqui-free before you buy or landscape.</p> <p>Eliminate excess yard debris and ground cover. You can limit frog habitat by removing dead leaves, pruning and thinning shrubs, and raking up debris. Disposing of green waste, fixing leaky faucets and emptying containers that catch rainwater may also decrease chances for frog establishment.</p> <p>Visit www.hear.org/frogs or www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/coqui to recognize the coqui frog's call.</p> <p>Organize community frog squads and night walks to listen for the sound of coqui.</p> <p>Notify MISC and neighbors of infested areas and offer to help control them.</p>	<p>If you have a few coqui, follow the calls at night and collect the frogs.</p> <p>If you have a coqui chorus, spray 16% citric acid (1.28 lbs. per gallon of water) in the area where they are heard. Put water in the sprayer first, then mix in citric acid. Spray must come in contact with the frog's skin to be effective.</p> <p>Call the County at 270-7960 to obtain a limited supply of repackaged citric acid. BEI Hawai'i sells citric acid in 50 lb. bags.</p>	<p>Report any sightings or calls to the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) at 573-6472. We want to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frog's Location - Number of frogs - Any action taken <p><u>Note:</u> Coqui are illegal to import, breed, keep as pets, sell or export in Hawai'i.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Use of brand names or companies does not imply an endorsement of the product or company. MISC assumes no liability for damage to non-target plants or animals or for any human contact with products mentioned here within.</p>