



LEARN ABOUT NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANTS



What is a native plant?

Native plants got to the Hawaiian islands without human assistance by one of three W's - Wind, Water or Wings. In Hawai'i, we also call them the three M's - Makani, Moana or Manu.

Native Hawaiian plants connect us to culture, community, and 'āina. Approximately 90% of Hawai'i's native plants are **endemic**, or found nowhere else on Earth.

Introduced or non-native plants were brought to Hawai'i by humans. Polynesian voyagers introduced a variety of species we call **canoe plants**. Post 1778 contact more plants were introduced either intentionally or accidentally. Some non-native plants cause ecological, economic, or other types of harm here in Hawai'i, which we call **invasive**.

Due to human activity, invasive species, and climate change, many of Hawai'i's native plants are at risk of **extinction**. However, with hard work and aloha, we can protect and grow these vital plants!



MAKANI



MOANA



MANU

**E ULU LĀ'AU,
HĀNAI KAIĀULU
GROW PLANTS,
SUSTAIN COMMUNITY**



Resources

- Explore the diversity of plants in Hawai'i with Forestry and Wildlife and Bishop Museum
- Explore Laukahi's Hua Ike Educator Resources to find curriculum connected to native plants
- Learn how native ecosystems protect our watersheds with Three Mountain Alliance's Guides
- Check out the GO NATIVE! Portal and Plant Pono to find out what grows well in your area
- Practice native plant ID with the Mālama La'au Cards



PROPAGATE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANTS

Native Plant Propagation

Interested in propagating native plants in your classroom?

You can propagate plants many different ways – three common methods are **planting seeds**, **making cuttings** or **air layers**.

Some native plants have fleshy fruit or hard outer seed layers. To increase germination, you need to clean or scarify the seed. Know the needs of your native plant and best propagation method.

Source plants responsibly. Some native plants can be specific to island, mountain range, or even valley. Work with local organizations to source plant material locally, and inspect for pests to reduce the chance of spreading invasive species.



Wiliwili seeds



'Ilie'e cuttings



'Ūlei air layers



Cleaning 'a'ali'i seeds

Resources

- Watch [Hui o Ko'olaupoko's](#) plant propagation series on growing native plants from seed, cutting and air layer
- Use [Mālama Learning Center's](#) propagation document and videos to grow ma'o, lonomea, and 'ilima. Check out their lesson plan for scarifying and growing 'a'ali'i.
- Explore [Bishop Museum](#) and UH [CTAHR's Hawaiian Native Plant Propagation Database](#)
- Look into the many books on native plant propagation, like "Growing Hawai'i's Native Plants" by Kerin E. Lilleeng