

If you have been through the Pastoral Garden recently, you will have noted the plethora of weeds in the iris beds, in the rose beds, and even in the pathways! They grow and seed faster than I seem to be able to move and pull them. Being off to Kauai for 10 days contributed to the decrease of work hours spent in the garden -- to say nothing of all the wet weather. The weed battle continues and may require more drastic measure, eg. "Round-Up".

It is always a delight to visit our 50th State and luxuriate in the warmth and the magnificent flora -- especially on the Garden Island. Brightly blooming and neatly trimmed hedges of bougainvillea border the walkways of a Poipu golf clubhouse and restaurant; poinsettia -- red, pink and white -- grow as screening hedges for homes; color from blooms of hybrid hibiscus, of red and pink ginger (*Alpinia purpurata*) and of fragrant plumeria (known as *Frangipani* in India and Sri Lanka) brighten the verdant landscape. Also two trees were displaying fine color: the orchid or St. Thomas tree (*Bauhinia monandra*) which bore pink/lavender orchid-like flowers and the African Tulip tree (*Spathodea campanulata*) holding fiery-red flower clusters above its deep green foliage. All this beauty, and winter is the season of *least* efflorescence on the Garden Island!

The Pastoral Garden has a scattering of paper white narcissus blooming, but little else at this time of year. However, there have been a few tall bearded iris which have sent up bloom stalks. The mild winter temperatures and the good rains seem to be the causes. Angel Unaware, tall and white; Smoke Rings, dusky beige and mauve; Dark Crystal, blue-violet; and Mystique, bi-tone lavender/violet, are some of these very early bloomers. Upon inspection, the buds of the cherry trees are showing color already, so it won't be long until many of the fruit trees will burst forth in bloom.



Rose pruning and shrub/tree trimming continues. Transplanting and potting dormant flora is also being carried on. If seedlings need to be lifted, now is the time to get it done. There will be ceanothus, buddleia, cornus florida (dogwood) seedlings and more dahlia tubers available in the gazebo for the taking. Stop by and see what is there that you can run off with!

Good gardening!

*Arlen*