

Homeowner's Guide to Stopping the Spread of Coqui Frogs on Maui



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.

Preventative:

- **Eliminate frog-friendly habitat.** By removing dead leaves from plants, pruning and thinning shrubs, and raking up understory debris, you can limit frog habitat. Dispose of your green waste -- don't leave it piled in your yard. In dry weather, frogs can be attracted to standing or dripping water. Fix any leaky faucets and empty any containers that catch rainwater. Mow a buffer zone around your house.

If you have just a few coqui on your property:

- **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. Then place the coqui into a container and close the lid. The most humane way to kill the coqui is by placing them in hot soapy water or in the freezer, then dispose.
- **Spray.** Spray 16% citric acid on infested plants to kill coqui eggs, juveniles and adults. 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. To avoid damage to plants, thoroughly rinse the treated plants with fresh water about a half hour after spraying. Spraying may "burn" some plants even after rinsing. Test-spray first if you are concerned about damage to your plants.
- **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 with 113° F water for 3 minutes, followed by 1 minute of cold water to cool off the plant. This treatment will kill any coqui or their eggs in the plant. Be sure to measure the water temperature, since 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°.

If coqui are well-established on your property:

- Spray all landscape and potted plants with citric acid or hot water. Eliminate possible hiding places.

Report sightings to 579-2116. 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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