

# PMC Progress Report

USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service - Ho'olehua Plant Materials Center

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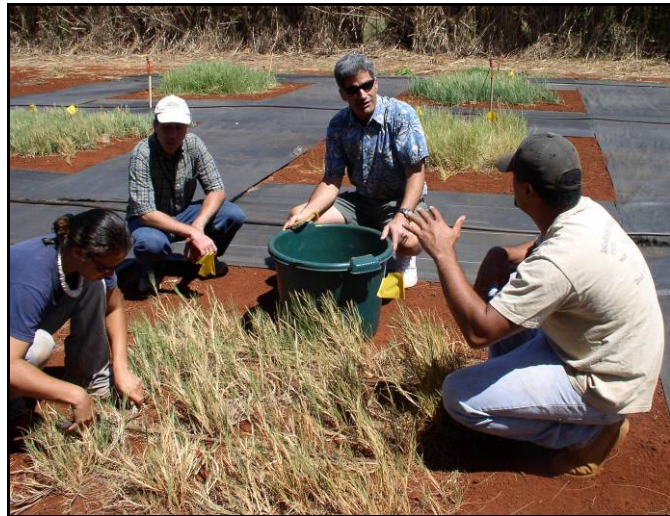
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## *Sporobolus virginicus* Update



The data from latest evaluation of our akiaki trial has suggested that there is no significant difference in length, width, or height between the accessions. However, the Moomomi accession continues to exhibit a faster rate to cover ground, based on point frequency data, with a very strong tendency to spread by rhizomes. By visual observations, it produces the most rhizome growth of all the accessions, therefore making it an excellent candidate for soil stabilization. Also, its leaves and stems are thinnest of all the accessions which could make it more palatable as feed. We plan to send samples of all the accessions to U.H. Manoa for forage analysis.

The Wailuku and Papohaku accessions also have a strong tendency to produce rhizomes with some new growth stems that tend to bury back into the soil. These two accessions do produce a nice uniform stand, however the rate of growth and amount of point frequency hits are relatively low. Differences between the two are also only slight with the Wailuku accession being the more vigorous.

### The Mission of the NRCS Plant Materials Program:

*We develop and transfer plant materials and plant technology for the conservation of natural resources. In working with a broad range of plant species, including grasses, forbs, trees, and shrubs, the program seeks to address priority needs of field offices and land managers in both public and private sectors. Emphasis is focused on using native plants as a sustainable way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems.*

## PANAX UPDATE

We have started a new trial to evaluate our panax accessions. Our first trial was a bit skewed due to a variety of factors that were either unknown or uncontrollable. We have redesigned the trial in hopes to eliminate these factors to give us more accurate and reliable data.

The new trail will again evaluate the effects that various nitrogen treatments will have on two accessions of panax. A soil test was performed prior to planting the trial and the recommended amendments were applied except for nitrogen. 3 foot cutting from both accessions were taken and planted at 2 foot spacing in a single line to simulate a windbreak setting. The trial is setup as a SPLIT-PLOT design with 4 replications. The nitrogen source will be Ammonium sulfate at 3 different rates; 400lbs. N/Ac, 200lbs. N/Ac, 100lbs. N/Ac, and also no nitrogen as a control. The fertilizer treatments will split into 4 applications to be applied at 90 day intervals.



At 186 DAP (days after planting, 1/28/08), the second nitrogen treatment was applied and evaluations were done. Visually there were slight differences that could be seen, but the data has indicated that it is not a significant difference. We have attributed this to the fact that the plants are still early in development and we will not see significant differences until they are older. If you would like more detailed information of the evaluations feel free to contact the Hoolehua PMC.

## *Vitex rotundifolia*



*Vitex rotundifolia*, or more commonly known in Hawaii as pohinahina, is a fast growing, drought-tolerant, native plant of the pacific islands, has the potential for conservation use. The PIA has indicated a need for a plant for rapid establishment of permanent vegetative cover on critical areas such as streambanks, roadsides, and steep hillsides. The long runners of pohinahina send roots down to the soil, which can hinder erosion, making it a promising candidate for further evaluation.

The Hoolehua PMC will soon be needing accessions from as many different areas of the PIA as possible. If you would like to assist in our collection; please feel free to contact the Hoolehua PMC for information on plant collecting protocol.



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