

OTHER FLORA FOUND IN HQ PACAF'S COURTYARD OF HEROES

OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH HAWAII



MANILA PALM

These tall and slender palm trees tower above the sago palms in small groups on both sides of the Courtyard. They originally come from the Philippines, hence their name; they are also known as “Christmas Palms” because their fruits ripen in the winter to a bright red color and give them a Christmas-time look. They can be distinguished from other palms (when without their scarlet fruit) by noting that their compact crowns contain around a dozen strongly curved, feather-like fronds (leaves) that bring to mind old-fashioned feather dusters.



RED GINGER

Red Ginger can be found growing all over Hawaii, but it is actually native to New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Yap and other South Pacific islands. The bright red or pink, cone-like features are not, in fact, flowers – they are modified leaves known as “bracts.” Although the bracts look like blooms, the true flowers are the almost inconspicuous small white flowers poking out of the cone. See for yourself by checking out the plants at the back of the Courtyard.

Hawaiian royalty, the ali'i, wore garlands (lei) of red ginger in important ceremonies. The Hawaiians would use the stems as medicine to cure stomachaches, grinding them, adding water, and then straining the mixture. Salt and rhizomes were mashed together and used to treat headaches. Dyes from the leaves produced subtle beige and yellow.

Information for this document on red ginger came from:

www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/OF-37.pdf (accessed 8/24/11)



TAHITIAN GARDENIA

Although it is reputed to have originated in Micronesia, its name shows that this fragrant bush is more commonly associated with Tahiti. It should not be confused with Hawaii's own native gardenia species, known as "nanu," which once existed on all the main islands. Currently, only 15 to 19 individual nanu plants are known to exist on Hawaii, Lana'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and O'ahu. Hawaiian women traditionally placed gardenias in their hair for adornment. You can find this bush at the far end of the Courtyard, alongside the left edge of the koi pond.

The information for this document on gardenias came from:

www.ntbg.org/plants/plant_details.php?plantid=5454&rid=939 (accessed 8/4/11)

www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/hawnprop/plants/gar-brig.htm (accessed 8/4/11)



DWARF SAGO PALM

The short, rather stumpy trees that can be found on both sides of the Courtyard somewhere near the midpoint are dwarf Sago Palms. Despite their name, they are not actually palms at all! They are, instead, a totally different type of plant known as a “cycad.” Cycads are a group of plants that are very primitive in their origins; they have evolved little since the days of the dinosaurs. Therefore, as a group, cycads are often referred to as “living fossils.”

The information on this document on sago palms came from:

www.junglemusic.net/cycadadvice/cycads-sago-palm.htm (accessed 8/4/11)



ARECA PALM

This type of multi-stalked palm, originally from Madagascar, can be found around the back of the koi pond in the Courtyard. They go by many names easier to remember than “areca”: “Cane Palms,” “Golden Cane Palms,” “Butterfly Palms,” “Yellow Palms,” “Golden-Yellow Palms,” (and not surprisingly!) “Yellow Butterfly Palms.”



BIRD-OF-PARADISE

The Bird-of-paradise, or “Crane Flower,” is a native of South Africa. The plant gets its name from the unique flower it bears, which many people think resembles a brightly colored, tropical bird in flight. What do you think? The plants can be found on the right-hand side of the Courtyard. The plant’s leathery leaves are held upright on stiff leafstalk; for those “in the know,” this hints at the fact that this plant is closely related to the banana.

(All photos in this document were taken by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt Gustavo Gonzalez)