

## Obtaining Seeds and Plants for Conservation, Cover Crops, and Beneficials

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This information is to notify you of the recent posting on the University of Hawai'i web site (<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/SCM-13.pdf>) of a revised publication by Dale Evans and myself titled [Obtaining Seeds and Plants for Conservation](#). It contains advice on purchasing seeds and a list of commercial suppliers of seeds and plants (primarily vetivergrass plants) which are commonly used by our clients in the Pacific Islands Area. Another resource is [Technical Note 6](#), which is a listing of nurseries that produce native plants; however, as a reminder, many of these nurseries also produce non-native species for forestry and windbreak plantings.

There are a number of growers and suppliers of 'Sunshine' vetivergrass plants now in the PIA and two new producers of 'Tropic Sun' sunn hemp seeds ([www.molokaiseedcompany.com](http://www.molokaiseedcompany.com), <http://www.oahurcd.org/>). The O'ahu RC & D has developed a 'Tropic Sun' sunn hemp seeds [flyer](#) and a helpful [handbook on cover crops](#).

The handbook states that sunn hemp attracts *Trichogramma* wasps, which parasitize corn earworms. Please see the handbook and the link below about how this happens. There's an article titled, "[Conservation of Pollinators Workshop](#)" in the latest issue (June/July 2012) of the Hawaii Landscape magazine. On page 25 it mentions that at Pioneer's Parent Seed station on O'ahu, planting or intercropping sunn hemp with corn has resulted in a savings of \$80,000 per year because they no longer have to treat for corn earworm. (Learn more about this workshop at <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/sustainag/workshop/Pollinator-2012.html>.)

For more information on the beneficial effects of cover crops please visit: [Cover Crops as Insectary Plants to Enhance Above and Below Ground Beneficial Organisms \(by Dr. Koon-Hui Wang\)](#).

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