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of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

June 15, 2018

Volcanic Activity Assistance is being provided by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Manoa, for commercial farmers and the general public in volcano-affected areas of Puna, Volcano, Pahala, Naalehu, South Point, and Hawaiian Ocean View areas as described below. Further information on Volcanic Emissions Impact on Agriculture can be found on CTAHR's website at <https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/>

Free ADSC Sampling

Three (3) free samples for each type of test from CTAHR's Agricultural Diagnostic Service Center (ADSC) will be provided for:

1. Water testing for pH (W1) and heavy metals (W4)
2. Soil testing for pH (S1) and heavy metals (S7)

Concerns might be acidity and lead (Pb) in catchment water, and heavy metals in soil. Listing of heavy metals analyzed by ADSC are in the price list:

https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/downloads/adsc/price_list.pdf

Note that concerns for animals grazing on forage grasses could be fluorine (F) in vog that plants could pick up. Unfortunately, ADSC does not currently have the capacity to analyze for Fluorides in grasses. However, CTAHR-ADSC is exploring this possibility.

Plant Breeding and Propagation

Orchids

CTAHR will be preparing parental plants of dendrobium orchids for crossing and seed pod distribution to the Orchid Growers of Hawai'i for propagation.

Papayas

CTAHR would also consider tissue culture of hermaphrodite papayas at the Komohana Research and Extension Center (KREC). A new TC lab is currently under initial development at KREC under a state grant and an expansion of that effort will be sought. CTAHR needs to establish the lab with equipment and hire a lab manager and technicians.

Other Issues?

Please contact your local Cooperative Extension office for assistance on these volcanic activity problems and other related issues.

Contacts

Cooperative Extension Offices on Hawai'i Island:

Hilo, 981-5199

Kamuela, 887-6183

Kona, 322-4892

For more information, CTAHR's website can be found at <https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/>