

March 2021

## HOMEOWNER TOOLS FOR LIVING IN VOLCANO: BRUSHCUTTER, CHAINSAW, LADDER, ... FROG SPRAYER?

Here's a new idea for Volcano residents: buy your own, affordable, portable version of a coqui frog sprayer for home use! I bought one for supplementing our neighborhood's coqui control efforts, last year, and it's the most fun yard toy you can imagine! For under \$300, you too can spray coqui frogs, high in your tree ferns or back in the ginger.

The Volcano Coquistadors have had to eliminate some areas of Volcano from our coqui control efforts, because the frogs are too prolific in some places. If you would like to eliminate your own frogs or work on your own neighborhood, this sprayer might really be for you!



*FIMCO Sprayer shipped free from Tractor Supply in Hilo - \$200*

The sprayer holds 25 gallons and the overall ratio is a 50 lb. bag of citric acid, mixed with 50 gallons of water. I divide the 50 lb. bag into 8 one-gallon ziploc bags (6.25 lb. ea.) for easy mixing of smaller batches. You can buy citric acid, which is FDA approved for safe use to control coquis, from Garden Exchange in Hilo. It doesn't hurt your plants and is non-toxic except to frogs. Check with the Coquistadors to see if you can get a discount from their supplies.

Contact Tim Tunison:  
[volcanoplantguy@gmail.com](mailto:volcanoplantguy@gmail.com)



*Sprayer loaded in my little Prius C!*



*Sprayer loads on a dolly to move around your yard or carry it by hand and fill it with a garden hose where you want to spray.*



*Small 12V battery and recharger - approx. \$60*

The pump is powered by a portable 12V battery. I started out with a bigger 12V battery (shown above from Walmart), but later moved to a small one from Home Depot that you can carry in one hand and will give you multiple starts! I keep the battery hooked up to a battery recharger when not in use (Home Depot). 12V battery and recharger, approx. \$60.

I extended the length of my sprayer's 25' hose by adding 25' sections with a brass coupling from Home Depot (3/8" repair kit \$5.48). I'm up to 75' with no loss of spraying power. It sprays about 40' into the air or out onto the ground. Each new 25' section of 3/8" hose, \$20 from Tractor Supply.

So, I encourage some folks to give this a try in the coming Spring. I'm not saying we can save the world, but if some of us did our little world, it could make an overall difference to the Volcano coqui control effort! The coquis are a huge competitor for insects with our native birds, so you are helping in that way, while seeking your own personal "Silent Night." Just let me know if you have any questions or would like a demonstration of my sprayer or help using yours. Please let Tim or I know if you purchase the sprayer and how you like using it.

Coquistador, Vicki Arthur  
[birdyvicster@gmail.com](mailto:birdyvicster@gmail.com)

### **Volcano Community Association (VCA) Mission Statement**

To improve and protect the quality of life in Volcano, County and State of Hawaii, on behalf of all residents of the area. To promote the social and educational advancement, increase recreational opportunities, ensure health, protect natural environment, and develop community spirit. Also, it will undertake any consonant project the community may be moved to assign to it.

However, it will remain nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

# A Little Coqui History Lesson

Coqui Frogs were accidentally introduced to the Big Island in the late 1980's on imported nursery plants. Beloved in their native Puerto Rico, coqui in Hawaii lack the natural predators that keep their population in balance, and their numbers quickly exceeded population densities of their home range. On the Big Island, coquis are recorded to reach densities as high as 2000 frogs per acre, more than twice the number found in similar areas in the Caribbean.

Hawaii evolved with no native terrestrial amphibians, and the natural ecosystem here is not adapted for their presence. Coqui are voracious eaters and although they will consume any insect they find, most of their forage time is spent in leaf litter looking for their invertebrate prey, which may be introduced or native. As many of our native invertebrates are already threatened by reduced habitat, coqui pose a troubling threat to our native ecosystems. Studies have shown they eat most crawling insects, not mosquitoes, as once had been hopefully suggested. Many homeowners throughout Puna have reported that high density infestations of little fire ants will reduce populations of coqui frogs, although these residents also indicated that this benefit was not enough to tolerate fire ants.

The distinctive "KO-kee" call that gives the frog its name can reach 100 decibels, louder than many power tools and lawn equipment, and can be very disruptive for residents in infested areas. The males will call from dusk to dawn to ward off competitors and attract a mate. In the morning, the frogs retreat to the ground and look for moist, shady areas to spend the day. Homeowners in highly infested areas have reported that in recent years, coqui will even call on overcast days or from heavily shaded areas.

Coqui have completely invaded most of East Hawaii from Glenwood to Kalapana and throughout North Hilo, with dozens of smaller populations sprinkled throughout the rest of the island. They are tree frogs, but are capable hitchhikers who have evolved to move with human belongings as we travel from place to place. Although potted plants are the most common route of spread for many invasive plants, coqui are known to travel in garbage cans, vehicles, camping equipment, and whatever they can cling to! Reducing habitat, enacting vigilant biosecurity, and working with your neighbors is the best way to prevent or control a coqui infestation in your neighborhood.

Taken from the website of Big Island Invasive Species Committee

[www.biisc.org/coqui/](http://www.biisc.org/coqui/)

**COQUI ELIMINATION!**

**CITRIC ACID VOUCHERS**

**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**  
CALL:  
HCEOC @ 961-2681

STOP BY HCEOC TO PICK UP A CITRIC ACID VOUCHER TO HELP CONTROL COQUI FROGS IN YOUR AREA. VOUCHERS ARE GOOD FOR (1) 50LB BAG. LIMITED SUPPLIES AVAILABLE.



**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE!!**  
**ONLY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**

REDEEM VOUCHERS AT:  
NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS  
900 LEHANI STREET  
HILO, HI 96720  
(808) 935-7191

LIMITED TIME ONLY

LIMITED TIME ONLY

Reduced cost vouchers are available for citric acid in Hilo.

Above: As of Feb 16, 2021 HCEOC in Hilo says they have vouchers for citric acid! Call 961-2681 ahead to check.

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Below: The beautiful jewelry pieces below were created by Leone Sutton who just moved to Volcano from Moloka'i with her family. She has been creating recycled pieces for 10 years now-3 years ago using ocean plastics that she cleaned up from the shores of Moloka'i.

Google Search : **OceanKindHI**  
Gorgeous! Thanks for sharing Leone!



The Voice of the Volcano Community Association is published by the VCA Board of Directors: Jim Buck, Chris Corley, Ida Gager, Sher Glass, Aubrey Hawk, Dan Morimoto and Mahi Snell.

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