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New Plants for Hawai'i
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“Apapane” and “I’iwi” Anthurium

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“Apapane” and “I’iwi” are two new cut-flower varieties bred from the University of Hawai’i patented variety ‘Tropic Fire.’ The bright, glossy red spathes, which are larger and more heart-shaped than those of the ‘Tropic Fire’ parent, bring to mind Hawai’i’s colorful indigenous endangered birds, ‘apapane and ‘i’iwi.

“Apapane” (UH1651) and “I’iwi” (UH1679) are siblings selected in July 1992 from a cross between an orange selection, UH931, and ‘Tropic Fire.’ ‘I’iwi’ was placed in tissue culture in April 1997, while “Apapane” followed in October 2000. Both grew

rapidly in culture. Tissue-cultured plantlets in flasks were transferred to cooperators in December 2002, while larger-sized plants were sent to one cooperator in July 2004. Vase-life evaluations were concluded in December 2007. Both selections performed well at the advanced test sites in East Hawai’i. Characteristics of each variety are listed in Table 1.

“Apapane” appears tolerant to bacterial blight and is resistant to anthracnose. It has a yield potential of 7.9 flowers per year. Its spathes lend themselves to compression when shipped.

“I’iwi” has a more elongated and cupped spathe than “Apapane.” It is also tolerant to bacterial blight and is moderately resistant to anthracnose. It has a yield potential of about 7.6 flowers per year. Drawbacks of “I’iwi” include the occasional cupping and notching of spathes.



Fig. 1. “Apapane” (UH1651).



Fig. 2. “I’iwi” (UH1679).

One cooperator observed vog damage on the upper lobes of “I’iwi’s” leaves. These symptoms mimic pesticide phytotoxicity. Less than 10% of the plants were affected.

“Apapane” and “I’iwi” can be considered for interiorscape specimens because of their vibrantly colored spathes. Mother flasks of propagules will be delivered to the Hawaiian Anthurium Industry Association in 2011.

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Table 1. Characteristics of Anthurium ‘Apapane’ (UH1651) and ‘I’iwi’ (UH1679).

	‘Apapane’	‘I’iwi’
Spathe		
Size and shape	5½" long, 4¾" wide	7" long, 5¼" wide Spathe may cup under high light intensity
Color	Red (RHSCC 45A)	Red (RHSCC 45A)
Position	45 degrees relative to stem	90 degrees relative to stem
Spadix		
Size and shape	3¼" long and ⅜" wide	3" long and ⅜" wide
Color	Yellow, turning white	Yellow, turning white
Flower stem	25" x ¼"	28" x ¼", occasionally crooked
Yield	7.9 flowers per year	7.6 flowers per year
Leaf		
Blade	13" x 8"	13" x 7"
Petiole	18" x ¼"	16" x ⅜"
Internode length	Short to medium	Short to medium
Sucker production	Poor	Moderate
Disease tolerance		
Bacterial blight	Tolerant	Tolerant
Anthracnose	Resistant	Moderately resistant
Keeping quality (includes 3-day packing)		
No BA	38 days (122 stems)	36.5 days (75 stems)
BA spray	42 days (113 stems)	39 days (73 stems)