



NEWS RELEASE

Media contact: Fran Setbacken
Phone: 805-569-9179
E-mail: fran.setbacken@planthaven.com

Breeding Breakthrough Produces Non-Invasive Colocasias Royal Hawaiian[®] Colocasia Series

Santa Barbara, California, June 19, 2009 – PlantHaven[®], Inc.

Dr. Cho of the University of Hawaii has achieved a significant breakthrough in Colocasia breeding. One of the beneficial attributes of the John Cho's breeding of the Royal Hawaiian[®] Colocasias is either very short stolons or lack of above or below ground stolons or runners. The runner attribute is a characteristic of wild type taros that probably is a good thing in the tropics for survival and spread of the species, but not here in the landscape.

Those introduced in the USA with that attribute with subsequently escape into the natural environment have become a problem in certain subtropical areas and has gained the status of an invasive plant.

All of Dr. Cho's ornamental hybrids have very short or no stolons. The rationale for release of only those with short or no stolons is to avoid introducing possibly invasive types that may later escape into the environment. All future hybrids will have the short or no stolon attribute.

Currently many of the Colocasias being marketed generate long stolons. Breeding the non-invasive attributes of his hybrids with new ornamental attributes or as replacements to those already being marketed could revolutionize landscape planting of Colocasia. For more information, visit www.royalhawaiiancolocasias.com.