

HAWAIIAN BANANAS, THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

Nomenclature and Description of Native Hawaiian Bananas—Probably Fifty Varieties to be Found in the Territory—Many Are Indigenous—Others Are Exotic—Cooking Bananas and Common Varieties.

An instructive article on "Native Hawaiian Bananas" appears in the September number of the *Paradise of the Pacific* and is as follows:

The above name ("Native Hawaiian Bananas") is not intended to imply that the varieties mentioned here are indigenous in the strict application of that term. The original stock probably came to these Islands with the early migrations of the Polynesian races of the south. Certain it is that the banana did not originate here, though perhaps no one can say positively that a chance introduction has never been made by natural means. Some of the varieties may have developed from the introduced forms. They are, however, found uncultivated in the gulches, the valleys and the sheltered places in the mountain forests, and are spoken of as "Native bananas" or "wild bananas." Some of these are doubtless where they were placed by the early Hawaiian cultivators, but nature has also done her part in the distribution as she continues to do. For example a heavy rain uproots a banana plant or an old corm and washes it down to the stream by which it is carried down the gulch and lodged in some new locality. As it grows it sends up new shoots and the progeny gradually spreads over the side of the gulch.

The number of these so-called native varieties is variously estimated between 25 and 50. There may be as many as 50 different names and possibly more, but it is well known that the same variety often has several different names. The Hawaiians of Kauai or Oahu may give it a name quite different from that by which it is designated on the island of Hawaii. Many names, therefore, are synonyms, but there are, nevertheless, many distinct forms. The differences in some cases are small, but sufficiently marked and constant to justify the different names.

Most of the Hawaiian bananas may be classed in three general groups. These are the Iholena, the Maoli and the Popoulu.

The Iholena group includes: Iholena, Lele, Haa, Puapuanui, Knpua, Hilahila and Ihou. In this group the fingers are usually of greatest diameter near the center and more or less pointed at either end. The color of the immature fruits is a light green, turning to yellow while still hard and unripe.

Iholena. This variety gives the name to the group. The plant is of low growth, perhaps 9 feet to the top of the leaves as an average. The petioles are rather stout, light green with pink on the edges; leaves slightly bronze colored on the under surface when new. The bunch is rather small. The fruits are arranged loosely and stand out at right angles from the axis of the bunch. The skin of immature fruits is light green, turning yellow before ripening. The form of the fruit is angular. When thoroughly ripe, beginning to turn black, it is regarded as one of the best of native bananas for eating raw. It is also good for cooking. The flesh is pink.

Lele. This plant is of much larger size, 18 to 22 feet. Petioles and leaf sheaths at upper part of trunk are of a very light green color. The leaf blades, when fresh, show some tendency to bronze tints on under surface, but less than Iholena. The bunch is hung on a very long scape or stem. The fruits, which very closely resemble Iholena, are placed upon the bunch in the same way. The flesh is pink as in Iholena.

Haa. This is characterized by the dwarf habit of the plant, which is even smaller than Iholena. It fruits quickly. Otherwise these

two varieties closely resemble each other.

Puapuanui. This has the largest "tree" of the group. The fruit differs from the rest of the group in being less angular and much less pointed at the ends.

Kapua. This name seems to be a synonym of Puapuanui. It is the term commonly used in Kona and other parts of Hawaii, but on this island is seldom heard. It may, however, be the older name.

Hilahila. This is a synonym of Iholena.

Among those usually classed in Maoli group are: Maoli or Maia-maoli, Puhī, Malai-ula, Kaulau, Hai, Koae or Ae-ae, Elele, Poni, Loha and Hinupaa.

Maimaoli. This is the commonest variety of the group to which it gives its name. Most of the other members are simply slight modifications of this type. The trunk is light green in color when young, with faint tints of pink. The characteristics of this variety and of the group in general, are roundness of form in fruit, which is usually turned more or less upwards, bluntness at the flower end, and length much greater than thickness. Together with a few of the modifying forms it furnishes most of the cooking bananas sold in Honolulu. In flavor and texture all the Maolis very closely resemble each other. They are usually cooked, but are much enjoyed raw by some.

Puhī. The distinguishing character of this variety is the great length of the fruit, which is small in diameter, compared with most others of the group, and is often bent or twisted. These peculiarities give it its name, which is the Hawaiian for eel.

Malai-ula. (Written also Malaiula and Manaiula.) The upper part of the "trunk" has a decidedly reddish color, which extends out more or less on the medribs. The most striking peculiarity, however, is the very dark red color of the immature fruit or pistils of the flowers when they first appear. As they increase in size this color gradually passes away and they take on the shade of green characteristic of the Maoli group.

Kaulau. This is the shortest "tree" of the Maoli group, being on an average about fourteen feet. It may also be distinguished from its relatives by its dark green foliage resembling in color the leaves of the Chinese variety. It will stand more wind than the others of this group.

The bunch is rather small among the Maolis but the variety can hardly be distinguished by the bunch. The fruit is of good flavor, but not regarded by some as equal to Malaiula.

Hai. This forms the largest plant of any of the native bananas and produces the largest bunch of fruit. The individual fruits also are very large. It is not so hardy, however, as some other kinds and neglected often fails to produce vigorous suckers and therefore dies out.

Koae. Also written Ae Ae or simply Ae. This is probably *M. sapientum* var. *vittata*. Koae is the white striped banana somewhat common in Honolulu but more so in Hilo and other moist parts of the islands. The leaves are striped with white on petiole and there are blotches of white on the blade. The fruit is also striped longitudinally with white. It is claimed by some to be of more recent introduction than the other varieties, but is said to be growing uncultivated in places in the forests. The fruit is of fair quality when cooked.

Elele. The "stem," petiole and midrib of leaf are all very dark—in fact almost black. The fruit when

it first appears is also so dark that at a distance it looks black. The black leaf sheaths, petioles and midribs furnish material used in the manufacture of native hats.

Poni. Probably a synonym of Elele.

Loha. The plant is of tall growth. The leaves resemble Lele. It is peculiar among all other Hawaiian bananas in that the fingers or individual fruits hang downward toward the ground. The fruit, if not bruised, is very good, but slight bruising even while green destroys its texture.

Hinupaa. This is a black-stem variety resembling Elele if not identical with it.

The Popoulu group is characterized by short thick fruit set almost at right angles to the stem of the bunch. Here are classed: Popoulu, Kaio, Hua Moa, Moa, Nou and Labi.

Popoulu. The plant is of medium to low growth, the stem is green with slight tendency to pinkish tints on petioles. The bunch is of medium size, the scape (or stem of bunch) rather slender. There are eight to ten fingers per hand. They are short, thick and rounded, and blunt at the end. This is rather a common variety, and of good quality when baked.

Kaio. This is similar to Popoulu but grows on a somewhat taller "tree" and is not so fine in flavor. It is sometimes called a tall growing Popoulu.

Hua Moo. (Hen's Egg.) The plant is medium height, the petiole long and slender. There are rather more leaves in the rosette than most other varieties have.

Once seen it may always be distinguished by these characters. The scape is very slender. The fruit is nearly as great in diameter as in length. There are often only two or three fruits per bunch. The fruit has a tendency to crack open before ripening—hence it must be gathered early. It is of very superior flavor.

Moa. This is claimed by some to be distinct from Hua Moa, never producing in one bunch, more than two or three fruits, however, being of enormous size. It is probable, however, that the varieties are not distinct, the differences which have given rise to the two names being due to the immediate effects of soil and cultivation.

Nou. A dwarf variety, three or four feet high. It does well in windy places.

There are a few varieties that cannot well be placed in the above classes.

Maia Hua Alua sometimes called Mahoe. The peculiarity of this variety is that it produces two bunches of fruit from the stem.

Maia Hapai. This is one of the most curious forms in the islands; probably Lubang or eel plantain of Java. It ripens its fruit within the stem.

Oa. An ornamental variety. The leaves are blotched with reddish-brown color.

[The above article is from data furnished by L. A. Andrews of Hilo, than whom there is no person in the Territory better versed in the nomenclature and characteristics of native Hawaiian bananas.—Ed.]

Inflammatory Rheumatism.

Any one who has ever experienced the excruciating and almost unbearable pains incident to inflammatory rheumatism, will be pleased to know that prompt relief may be had by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. Mr. D. Snyder, of Roseville, Ontario, Canada, says: "I have been troubled with inflammatory rheumatism for the past two years and unable to sleep at night. I have taken many remedies but must say Chamberlain's Pain Balm is the best I have ever tried." For sale by Hilo Drug Co.

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BY AUTHORITY.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY, TERRITORY OF HAWAII.

RULE AND REGULATION NO. 1.

INSPECTION OF IMPORTED LIVE STOCK.

In order to prevent the introduction into this Territory of infectious, contagious and communicable diseases among live stock and other animals, local managers or agents of Steamship and Navigation lines or the commanding officer of any ship shall notify the Territorial Veterinarian or the local Live Stock Inspector immediately upon the arrival of any ship, of the presence on board if any, of live domestic animals, including poultry and dogs, when same is intended to be landed in this Territory and shall upon arrival of any ship furnish the inspecting officer with a list of the number and kind of animals taken on board from any port outside of this Territory, the number and kind destined for the Territory, the names of the owners or consignees, and a report as to the condition of health and cases of sickness or death among the animals while on board.

If necessary to remove such animals before the arrival of the inspector, they must be confined on the pier in such a manner as to facilitate inspection, but should in no case be turned loose on the pier. Hogs and sheep shall be confined in temporary pens. Cattle and horses shall be tied on the pier. No animal of any description shall be allowed to leave the pier until the Territorial Veterinarian or local Live Stock Inspector has issued a certificate of health permitting the landing of the animal or animals in question.

In no case shall the removal of live animals from the ship for inspection or other purposes, constitute a landing until a certificate of health for such animals has been issued.

Until further notice the ports of Honolulu, Oahu, and Hilo, Hawaii, shall constitute the only ports of entry for live stock and other animals for this Territory.

Any violation of this regulation is a misdemeanor. This regulation shall take effect at once.

C. S. HOLLOWAY,
Executive Officer, Board of Agriculture and Forestry.

Approved September 11, 1905.
G. R. CARTER,
Governor.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY, TERRITORY OF HAWAII.

RULE AND REGULATION NO. 2.

INSPECTION AND TESTING OF IMPORTED LIVE STOCK, FOR GLANDERS OR TUBERCULOSIS.

In order to prevent the further introduction of glanders and farcy into this Territory it is hereby ordered that:

No horse stock, (including mules and asses) shall be admitted to the Territory unless accompanied by a certificate of health showing that the animal or animals in question have been submitted to the mallein test and found to be free from glanders. Said test must be made and certificate issued by a competent veterinarian whose name appears upon the list of graduates from a recognized veterinary college and whose professional standing is satisfactory to this board. The test must be made according to the rules of the Territorial Veterinarian and recorded on blanks furnished by him for this purpose.

If such animals shall not have been tested before shipment they shall upon arrival in this Territory be placed in quarantine and held there until mallein tested under the supervision of the Territorial Veterinarian or the local Live Stock Inspector and at the expense of the owner.

Any person contemplating the importation of horse stock to this Territory shall notify the Territorial Veterinarian or the local Live Stock Inspector and obtain from him the necessary blanks and instructions.

In order to prevent the further introduction of tuberculosis in cattle it is hereby ordered, that:

No cattle above the age of six months shall be admitted to the Territory unless accompanied by a certificate of health showing that the animal or animals have been submitted to the tuberculin test and found to be free from tuberculosis. The said test must be under the same conditions as those governing the importation of horse stock and be recorded on blanks furnished by the Territorial Veterinarian. If unaccompanied by such certificate the animals shall be tested upon arrival in the same manner as prescribed for horse stock.

If any horse stock shall be found by the Territorial Veterinarian or the local Live Stock Inspector, upon arrival in the Territory, to be infected with glanders or any cattle to be infected with tuberculosis, the same shall be immediately destroyed and carcass disposed of at the expense of the owner, under the supervision

of the Territorial Veterinarian or the local Live Stock Inspector.

Any violation of this regulation is a misdemeanor.

C. S. HOLLOWAY,
Executive Officer, Board of Agriculture and Forestry.

Approved September 11, 1905.
G. R. CARTER,
Governor.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY, TERRITORY OF HAWAII.

RULE AND REGULATION NO. 3.

CONCERNING GLANDERED HORSE STOCK IN THE TERRITORY.

It having been brought to the notice of this board that a contagious disease known as glanders and farcy prevails among the horse stock in various portions of this Territory; therefore, in case any animal shows symptoms of glanders, the owner or person having charge of the same, or any person having reason to believe or to suspect that an animal has glanders shall immediately notify the Territorial Veterinarian or the local Live Stock Inspector.

If the Territorial Veterinarian or the local Live Stock Inspector decides that there is reason to believe an animal is suffering from glanders he shall at once isolate the suspected animal or animals and either submit them to the mallein test or remove them to quarantine, where they shall be kept under observation until the nature of the disease can be definitely established.

All animals which upon examination by the Territorial Veterinarian or the local Live Stock Inspector are found to exhibit definite symptoms of glanders shall be destroyed and the carcass disposed of under the supervision of one of the above mentioned officers.

All other animals which have been exposed to the infection by being in the same stall, yard or premises, or which in any way have come in contact with an affected animal, shall be quarantined for such period as shall be required by the Territorial Veterinarian or the local Live Stock Inspector, or submitted to the mallein test.

The premises where affected animals have been kept shall be disinfected under the supervision of the Territorial Veterinarian or the local Live Stock Inspector. All expenses in connection with the examination, testing, destroying and disposing of affected animals, as well as quarantine and disinfection, shall be paid by the owner.

Any violation of this regulation is a misdemeanor. This regulation shall take effect at once.

C. S. HOLLOWAY,
Executive Officer, Board of Agriculture and Forestry.

Approved September 11, 1905.
G. R. CARTER,
Governor.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY.

Office of Territorial Veterinarian,
Honolulu, Sept. 12, 1905.

All owners of horse stock in this Territory should carefully and regularly examine their animals to ascertain if they exhibit any of the symptoms of glanders or farcy as follows:

Discharge from the Nose.—This condition occurs in a number of diseases, as for instance catarrh of the nose and strangles (distemper, epizootic), but in glanders it is usually quite characteristic. In mild cases it is not very abundant but is thick and quite sticky, of a transparent whitish color, somewhat resembling the white of an egg. This sticky discharge adheres to the margin of the nostrils forming tough brownish scales and crusts. The discharge does not necessarily sink when dropped in water, as is popularly believed.

The most popular characteristic symptoms of glanders is the presence of ulcers in the nose, usually on the partition between the nasal chambers. These ulcers are not always plainly in sight, but may be brought into view by holding the nostrils well open and turning the nose toward the sun. They vary in size from 1-8 to 1-4 inch in diameter up to one to two inches, and may become confluent and form large patches, always with ragged irregular edges. The ulcers may heal and leave depressed wrinkled scars. The amount of discharge from the nose depends upon the extent of the ulcerations; when small the discharge is scant and when more extensive it becomes more abundant. Frequently the discharge and ulcers occur only on one side. There is nearly always a swelling of the lower jaw, but not to the same extent as in strangles, and they rarely suppurate or break open.

The type of glanders known as farcy consists in a specific inflammation of the skin and may occur on any part of the body or limbs.

The glands become swollen, forming the so-called farcy buds, and often occurring as a chain of nodules along the enlarged lymph vessels. The nodules break open and discharge a yellowish white, sticky pus, forming crusts similar to those seen around the nostrils. The abscesses may heal up and new ones form in the same vicinity or on more distant parts of the body.

The disease may be either chronic or

acute in its course and the chronic form may at any time become acute. Mules and asses almost invariably develop the acute form while in horses either form may be seen. Want of feed and over work frequently causes latent glanders in the horse to become acute.

The disease is often accompanied by a soft dry hacking cough and a tendency to sudden swelling of one of the legs, especially the hind legs.

In a large number of cases of glanders the symptoms are very slight even though the animals may have been affected for months or even years and herein lies the great danger of the spread of the disease to other animals or to man.

In the course of a few days the Territorial Veterinarian will have for distribution copies of Bureau of Animal Industry Circular No. 78 entitled "Glanders and Farcy" and which gives a detailed description of the history, nature, symptoms, diagnosis and prevention of the disease in question.

All requests for this circular should be addressed to

DR. VICTOR A. NORCAARD;
47-3 Territorial Veterinarian, Honolulu.

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