

# COQUI FROG CONTROL IN DISCOVERY HARBOUR



## Eliminate Frog Habitat

- Get rid of places that frogs can hide by keeping your lawn trimmed and creating a firebreak between your property and a vacant lot. Remove lower branches from smaller trees or large shrubs and remove leaf litter.
- Remove old banana and heliconia leaves. Frogs prefer to perch where the leaves connect to the trunk.
- Areas containing rocks that are an inch or bigger should be filled in with fine cinder.
- Check plant pots before using, especially if they have been stacked.
- Inspect building materials that have been stored on your property, including cement blocks, as well as new materials brought in.
- Treat green waste properly. Either take it to the transfer station, or put it in a pile and apply hydrated lime to the top of the pile. Reapply as needed. This will not only control coqui, snails, and slugs, but will facilitate breakdown of green waste into good compost. Do not dump green waste on vacant lots or roadways.

## Plant Selection and Sanitation

- Coqui frogs favor certain plants, such as heliconia, bananas, false stag horn fern, wild orchid, ginger, wedelia, and tall grasses.
- Inspect all plants brought in from outside of *Discovery Harbour*. Frogs may hide in holes at the bottom of pots or in cavities in the potting mix. Quarantine the plants in a clear plastic bag or in a closed space for several days. To sanitize plants, you can soak pots and wash foliage in 113° water (the temperature of a hot shower) for five minutes followed by one minute of cold water to cool off the plant. Check the CTAHR website for details.

## Locating the Frog

- Coquis do their calling at night. You may need two or three people to locate the frog once you hear the call, as triangulation works best. Some frogs will stop calling if they hear voices or see lights.
- Check folded or curled leaves, leaf axils, dead leaves hanging from plants, and leaf litter beneath plants for adults as well as eggs.

## Capturing or Spraying to Kill the Frog

- If you chose to capture the frog, grab it quickly with two hands and put it in a flexible bag secured with ties so they can't easily jump out. Coquis do not bite and are not poisonous. Put the bag in the freezer for at least three hours.
- Spraying with citric acid kills adults, juveniles, and eggs. DHCA has a sprayer available for use by members. Contact the office to borrow the sprayer and citric acid. Instructions for mixing the citric acid will be provided.
- Frogs are killed by direct contact with the spray. Thorough coverage of plants with the citric acid solution (including undersides of leaves where frogs may be hiding) is important. Also spray the ground in a wide area around the plant in case the frog tries to jump away.
- After spraying, any eggs not destroyed will hatch and you may hear the coqui noise again in six to eight months.
- Citric acid is a common food additive and is considered safe for environmental use. However, it may damage some sensitive plants or young, growing plants so be careful when applying. It is prudent to wear eye protection and gloves when handling citric acid.

***For more information go to CTAHR website at [www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/coqui](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/coqui)***