Tropical Horticulture School Opens In Hawaii

The Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden will be initiating a two-year training program in tropical horticulture this fall. The instruction provided in the Training Program is intended to give the student a broad base of technical knowledge combined with practical experience. This will enable him to have increased job mobility in tropical horticulture at supervisory levels.

The educational program is designed to combine technical knowledge with practical skills.

The course in itself is a complete unit and reverses the usual approach of separating academic and applied studies.

The program is not intended to be a preparation for continuing academic study at a four-year college or university. Upon completion of his training, the student should be ready to be a productive employee in an entry level job and be prepared to advance to positions of increased responsibility.

Since this is an intensive two-year course, specialized training will begin immediately. Courses offered include: elementary botany, horticultural science and applications, nursery management, plant identification, economic entomology and plant disease control, weed control, ethnobotany, landscape maintenance and plant propagation.

About three-fourths of the student’s time per week (30 hours) will be devoted to work-experience. Supervised or directed work-experience will be used to develop specific horticultural skills and understandings and to encourage desirable work habits and attitudes.

This year three on-island and three off-island students will be accepted for the first session of the program. Those off-island students selected for admission will be given a $3,000 Study Grant for anticipated living and school costs. The basic entrance requirements are: a completed application form, high school graduation or equivalent, a general proficiency in the English language, and some practical experience in horticulture is preferred.

Anyone who desires to apply for this program or is interested in further information should contact Mr. Steven Frowine, Educational Supervisor, Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden, P. O. Box 758, Koloa, Hawaii 96756, Telephone: (808) 332-8131.

Irrigation University Started By Toro

The Moist O'Matic Division of The Toro Company is establishing a year-round training center for personnel involved in selling, designing, installing and maintaining institutional, industrial and commercial irrigation systems.

David W. Good, Moist O'Matic director of marketing, said the training center, to be located in the division's Riverside headquarters, will provide a flexible but concentrated teaching program to increase the skills and knowledge of persons involved in all aspects of irrigation systems utilization.

He said the irrigation systems industry is growing so rapidly that there is a severe shortage of skilled personnel. The industry, he said, will not be able to reach its potential unless that problem is alleviated.

Good said there were no short-term training facilities available to help industry personnel improve either their skills for specific tasks or their overall understanding of how various types of irrigation systems function and what they are designed to accomplish.

The Toro training center is expected to admit its first student group from California, on October 1. A formal opening, with classes available to participants from the rest of the U.S. and Canada is scheduled for November 6.

Good said the center's training program, which will include both classroom and field work, has been designed to serve primarily five groups: Installers (usually independent businessmen), specifiers (usually landscape architects commissioned to design a landscape plan including a sprinkler system layout) distributor salesmen, franchisors (independent businessmen specializing in the sale of Toro irrigation equipment), and personnel from golf courses, universities, schools, federal and state institutions and local municipalities who are responsible for turf and lawn maintenance.

Subjects to be covered include: how to survey, drafting techniques, types of sprinklers, sprinkler performance and spacing, sprinkler application and selection, hydraulics, friction loss, piping systems, control systems, codes, drain valves, service installation, contracts, and sales aids.

E. Lee Bean, formerly district manager for Moist O'Matic irrigation products in the Mountain States area, has been appointed manager of the center.