

# PROPAGATING NATIVE PLANTS AT THE NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

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*Ragone, D. 2002. Propagating Native Plants at the National Tropical Botanical Garden (summary). In: Dumroese, R.K.; Riley, L.E.; Landis, T.D., technical coordinators. National Proceedings: Forest and Conservation Nursery Associations—1999, 2000, and 2001. Proceedings RMRS-P-24. Ogden, UT: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station: 239. Available at: <http://www.fcnet.org/proceedings/2000/ragone.pdf>*

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Hawaii has the dubious distinction of being the extinction capital of the United States with close to 30 percent of native plant species listed as endangered. The National Tropical Botanical Garden has been a leader in efforts to propagate and conserve native Hawaiian plants with close to 800 species collected for *ex situ* conservation since

1990. Propagation methods have been determined for more than 500 species, including many which have never been cultivated before. Examples of the successes and challenges of propagating extraordinarily rare native Hawaiian plants will be presented.