



Celebrate Arbor Day Get a free tree!

In Hawaii, Arbor Day is observed on the first Friday in November. This Arbor Day marks the 100th anniversary of the celebration in Hawaii and the custom of planting trees to benefit the environment.



This is a reproduction of a watercolor of the ohia tree flower by Isabella Sinclair, depicted in *Common Hawaiian Trees*. Ohia lehua is one of the trees that will be available at the Arbor Day giveaway.

The ohia tree is sacred to Pele, the volcano goddess. Polynesians used its hard wood to carve images, household utensils, canoes, and musical instruments. Lei makers use its flowers and immature red leaves. Endemic birds such as the iwi and apapane feed on the flowers.

To celebrate, we will join our partners to give away 1,000 potted, Hawaiian trees and shrubs, including koa, ohia, kukui, ulu, milo, native hibiscus, and mamaki, at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, **Saturday, November 5, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.**

Arborists and experienced landscapers will offer advice on selecting the perfect tree. Along with a free tree (one tree per household), attendees will receive a brochure with tips on planting and caring for their tree or shrub. *Common Hawaiian Trees*, a useful guide that describes indigenous and native trees of Hawaii, will be available for purchase.

An important consideration for homeowners is to properly site a tree to maximize the benefits its shade provides to cool the home. Shading the walls and windows of the sunny sides of a home can reduce air conditioning energy costs by 30% or more. And remember to not plant a tree where it can interfere with power lines once it matures.

Cosponsors of the tree giveaway are the Board of Water Supply, County of Maui, Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, MECO, and other tree-friendly partners.

At the tree giveaway visit educational booths, get a free water-saving device, and see planting, pruning, and tree climbing demonstrations. Take a self-guided tour of the garden and rest in the shade under beautiful Hawaiian trees. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is located at 150 Kanaloa Avenue, across from the War Memorial Sports Complex in Kahului. Call **(808) 249-2798** for more information.



Also in this issue:

[How to buy CFLs](#)

[Take the mystery out of solar](#)

[Banish your phantom loads this Halloween!](#)

[Recipe of the month](#)

How to buy CFLs

CFLs (compact fluorescent lamps) are great energy savers. ENERGY STAR® qualified CFLs use 66% to 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs.

The new CFLs come in sizes suitable for table lamps and ceiling fixtures. Some specialty CFLs work in dimmable and three-way fixtures. And if you buy the warm white light CFLs, you will find the color soft and inviting.

Only certain CFLs are made for enclosed fixtures or for use in outside, wet locations. Check the label carefully for the features you require.

CFLs may cost a bit more to purchase, but they last longer (four to seven years for home use) and use less energy. Pick a CFL with a well-known brand name for high quality and long life.

CFLs use less electricity than standard incandescent bulbs for the same amount of light output (lumens). To help you choose the right one, compare the light output of the bulb you are replacing with the light output of a CFL and purchase the CFL with the same output.

Additionally, most CFLs list their wattage equivalency to incandescent bulbs on the package. You can easily divide the wattage of the bulb you are replacing by four to select the equivalent CFL.

Start by replacing the incandescent bulbs that get the most use in your home, perhaps hallway bulbs or those in kitchen and bathroom fixtures. We think you will like them and we know you will be pleased with the money you save.



Compact Fluorescent Lamp

60 WATT
EQUIVALENT LIGHT OUTPUT

Light Output (Lumens)	900
Energy Used (Watts)	15
Life (Hours)	8,000



LASTS
5
YEARS



TAKE THE MYSTERY OUT OF SOLAR

Attend a free class!

Learn the basics about solar water heating systems by attending a free, one-hour class offered by MECO. The class, cosponsored by Maui Community College (MCC), will be held from **6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** in room 107 of the Laulima Building at MCC on the following dates: **10/12/05, 11/17/05, and 12/12/05.**

The class will cover:

- Principles of solar water heaters and solar electric systems
- Purchasing a solar water heater
- Financing options
- Solar water heater use
- Maintenance and troubleshooting
- When to replace the system

Preregistration is required. Please call MCC at **984-3231** to register. For information on solar water heating systems call us at **1-888-MECO-SUN.**



Banish your phantom loads this Halloween!

"Phantom" electrical loads may be haunting your house, using energy even if appliances appear to be turned off. Phantom loads are common in consumer electronics that have a clock, timer, or automatic start, such as remote control TVs, VCRs, cable boxes, computers, and microwave ovens.

Phantoms also strike in "wall-cube" plugs of cordless phones or other charging devices. And phantoms especially love to haunt cable and satellite transmission boxes.

These modern appliances are designed to have convenient, remote-control features, to deliver appropriate voltage, or to upgrade software automatically. However, they may consume over half their energy when they are not in use.

For a typical household, the simplest solution is to plug these devices into a power strip. This allows them to be effectively disconnected by the strip's on-and-off button. Ask your cable and Internet service providers about their power requirements before disconnecting units.

This Halloween, don't let phantom loads trick you into using more energy than necessary. Treat yourself to energy savings!



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Toll House Kookie Brittle



- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate pieces
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Preheat electric oven to 375° F. In large bowl of electric mixer, cream butter and sugar. Add salt and vanilla. Mix in flour, chocolate pieces, and 3/4 cup of the nuts. Press evenly into an ungreased 15 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 1-inch pan. Sprinkle the remaining 1/4 cup nuts over top and press lightly. Bake for 25 minutes. Cool and break into irregular shaped pieces. Recipe makes about 30 cookies.

