

## Lesson 2. Propagation of 'Uala



'Uala is propagated using vine cuttings/slips which are called lau 'uala.

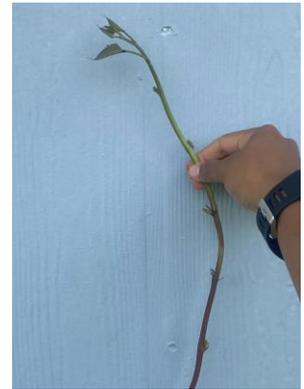
To harvest the lau 'uala, you can cut a 12-20 inch long piece from the end of the vine. To measure this, you can use your ha'ilima which is the measurement from your fingertips to your elbow. After collecting 2-3 lau 'uala, you want to carefully remove, or snip off, all of the leaves except for the last three near the mu'o, which is the leaf bud at the tip of the lau 'uala.

It is better to collect the lau 'uala when it is not too hot outside. Doing so is said to stunt the growth of the plant, producing less 'uala tubers.

### Preparing the Lau 'Uala

### When to Plant

Planting the lau 'uala can happen right after they have been collected or up to 3 days after they are taken, as long as they are kept damp and protected from the sun's rays. It is best to plant lau 'uala early in the morning or later in the afternoon when the heat from the sun is not as significant. The best moons for planting lau 'uala are Hilo, Hoaka, the Kū moons, Huna, Mahealani, and Akua. These moons are said to yield the best results for 'uala crops. As is with the most, it is meakanu, not recommended to plant on any 'ole moons because 'ole means nothing, which implies that you will get little to nothing from the crop planted on those days.



### How to Plant

The most practical way to plant 'uala is to use pu'e. These are small mounds that are low to the ground. Higher mounds, called pu'epu'e, can be used in areas that receive a lot of rain to help with drainage. After creating these pu'e, plant 2 or 3 lau 'uala in a hole that is dug 6 to 8 inches down. You can plant them vertically or horizontally, as long as the mu'o is sticking out of the ground. Cover the rest of the lau 'uala and give the pu'e a good watering. Occasional watering may be needed as the 'uala grows. Be careful not to disturb the roots of the 'uala itself. As the vines grow longer and longer, twirl them around the center where they were originally planted. Some mahi'ai will then cover the vines with soil to encourage the plant to put its efforts into producing more tubers rather than vines, but this is optional.



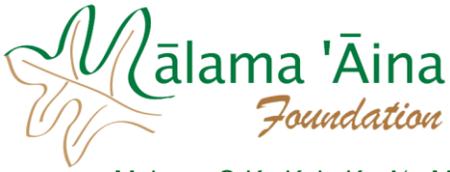
Be careful not to rip the maka or buds that are found at the end of each ha or petiole.

## Harvesting

You can harvest the 'uala around 3-6 months after planting it. You can start by pulling up all the vines and finding the center. Huki or pull the vines up until they come out of the ground. It should come up in one bundle. After you've pulled the vines out, sift through the pu'e to find the hidden 'uala tubers.



He 'uala ka 'ai ho'ōla koke I ka wī



Mahope O Ke Kula Ke A'o Mau Ana Program

## Respond to Reading

### Directions

Respond to the questions below. Underline and identify specific lines from the passage that support your claim.

Which moons are best for planting 'uala?

How can pu'epu'e help the growth of 'uala?

Which conditions are best for harvesting lau 'uala? Which conditions should be avoided?