

GROUP ELEELE

This group, comprising two varieties, is characterized by a blackish or reddish-brown petiole with a dark reddish-purple ring at the base, a dark lilac-purple area for 3 to 4 cm. above the ring, and by the light lilac-purple corn flesh. The varieties in this group constituted the so-called "royal black taros" of the early Hawaiians. They mature usually within 8 months and are fairly high producers. The corms must be harvested soon after maturity as they begin to rot very quickly. Even the huli deteriorate if held over for any length of time after harvesting. They are grown primarily under upland culture and are especially popular in Kona where they are made into red poi of excellent quality.