

GROUP LAULOA

The group Lauloa is characterized by long petioles and long, saggitate, usually quite undulate blades: hence the name Lauloa, meaning large or long leaf. The varieties within this group are nearly identical as to length of petiole and size and shape of the blade. The plants are tall with an erect, compact habit of growth and are the most vigorous of all the taros. They produce oha sparingly and mature usually in from 8 to 12 months. The group is represented by seven varieties in the station's plantings, and an eighth has been described from previously recorded date

The Lauloa taros are planted almost exclusively under upland culture, most extensively in Kona, Hawaii, where they make excellent growth, and also in Puna and Kau. They are comparatively nonacrid and, probably for this reason, were used by the early Hawaiians for medicinal purposes, chiefly in pulmonary disorders. They are now popular principally as table taros although they are still used to a limited degree for poi.

The Lauloa group is somewhat unstable, the different forms producing occasional somatic mutations.