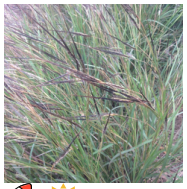
GRASSES & GROUNDCOVER

*Pili – *Heteropogon contortus*
2-3 ft native dryland bunchgrass, prune biannually for aesthetics and mulch material, deer resistant at maturity. S: 3ft



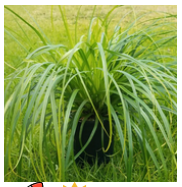
*Kāwelu – *Eragrostis variabilus*
2 ft native grass, self seeding, Partly Shade tolerant. S: 3ft



*Ilie'e – *Plumbago zeylanica*
3 ft spreading native plumbago, tolerates most conditions. small blue flowers, sticky seed pods S: 3ft



*Oahu sedge – *Carex oahuensis*
3ft sedge with elegant weeping foliage. S: 3ft



*Ahu'awa – *Cyperus javanicus*
3 ft sedge with stout grey/green foliage, showy seedheads. S: 4ft



*Kupukupu fern– *Nephrolepis cordifolia*
2 ft sword fern, spreads to fill areas aggressively, excellent weed suppression once established. S: 3ft



*Palapalai fern – *Microlepia strigosa*
2-3 ft pale green fern, grow for lei, thrives in part shade understory

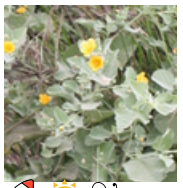


SHRUBS

*A'ali'i – *Dodonea viscosa*
8-12 ft extremely hardy shrub, female plants have colorful seed pods for lei, leaf litter builds soil. S: 6ft



*'ilima – *Sida fallax*
5ft gray/green shrub, bright yellow flowers, requires full sun and low water, pollinator friendly. S: 4ft.



*Kuluī – *Nototrichium spp.*
sandwicense 8-12 ft attractive silver foliage shrub



Koki'o ke'oke'o – *Hibiscus arnottianus*
spp. 8-18ft native with large white petaled scented flowers, mature height varies, benefits from pruning annually. S: 6ft



*Alahe'e – *Psydrax odorata*
15-20 ft dense evergreen shrub, excellent windbreak, privacy hedge, prune to shape. S: 8ft



*Māmaki – *Pipturus albidus*
6-10 ft native nettle with large red-veined leaves, tolerates heavy pruning and shade/sun, leaves for tea. S:6ft



*'ulei – *Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*
6 ft sprawling shrub, small white flowers, great understory. S:8ft

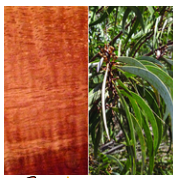


*Maile – *Alyxia stellata*
Climbing vine, plant on fences/with companions for support, grow for lei. S:4ft



TREES

*Koai'a – *Acacia koaia*
25 ft a low spreading dry forest canopy tree, lowland koa relative. S: 15ft



*Naio – *Myoporum sandwicense*
15-20 ft low spreading dry forest tree, elegant weeping foliage, small white flowers. S:12ft



>>> Continues on back >>>

LEGEND

Fast Establishment

Drought/Wind/Sun Tolerant

Shade Tolerant

Pollinator Friendly

Erosion Control

S: Spacing for planting

Mahalo to our friends at Maui Native Nursery for sharing their knowledge and plant recommendations for landscapes in Kula.

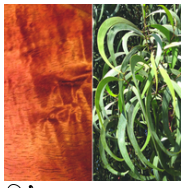
This guide highlights resilient plants suited to our climate and watershed that can help stabilize soil, reduce fire risk, and restore native habitat in Kula.

Learn more:
malamakula.org
mauinativenursery.com

Contact us:
malamakula@gmail.com

2025

*Koa – *Acacia koa*
30-60 ft large hardwood tree, leaf litter builds soil, nitrogen fixer. S: 20ft



*‘Ōhi’a – *Metrosideros polymorpha*
6-50 ft a native forest keystone species, growth forms and height vary, striking red, orange, or yellow flowers. S: 15ft



*‘iliahi – *Santalum haleakalae*
12-30 ft slow growing, requires small plants nearby as companions (hemi-parasitic), fragrant heartwood. S: 12ft



*‘ohe mauka – *Polyscias hawaiensis*
30-50 ft specimen tree, thrives in kula growing conditions, large-leaved beautiful canopy. S: 15ft



*Hō’awa – *Pittosporum spp.*
15-30 ft dry forest tree, white flower clusters fragrant at night. S:12ft



*Halapepe – *Chrysodracon auwahienses*
15-30 ft dry forest specimen tree, unique shape and foliage, showy flowers, orange fruit. S: 10ft



Native Plant Guide

Elevation 3,000ft+

Maui Native Nursery

Text by Alex Tranovich