

# APHIS News

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service**

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## BROWN TREE SNAKE 1998 SYMPOSIUM TO FOCUS ON LATEST RESEARCH OF PEST SPECIES

HILO, Hawaii, July 24, 1998-The latest research on the brown tree snake, a species introduced on Guam with serious ecological, economic, and human health consequences, will be the subject of the 1998 Brown Tree Snake Research Symposium on July 27-29 in Waikiki, Hawaii.

The symposium, which will be held at Tapa Tower at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki, is a forum for researchers developing control methods for the brown tree snake to present their findings to wildlife biologists, managers, administrators, and others who deal with this pest species.

U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture, organizers of the conference, said that during the past five years there have been substantial advances in the understanding of brown tree snake biology and the development of control techniques. These advances will be discussed in more than 30 presentations by federal, territorial, state, university, military, and private researchers.

Researchers who study the brown tree snake say that if the snake makes its way onto other Pacific Islands, the devastating scenario that has taken place in Guam could well be repeated again and again.

The meeting will be attended by over 100 managers and researchers working for federal, territorial, state, university, military, and private organizations with particular interest in the control, management, and biology of the brown tree snake. The following topics will be discussed at the meeting:

- basic biology,
- trapping strategies and snake movements,
- attractants,
- dispersal events,
- population biology,
- barriers,
- snake detector dogs,
- large-scale control,
- other tools limiting dispersal, and
- unmet research needs for control.

The following organizations are presently aiding in the planning and support of this symposium:

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Geological Survey Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center, U.S. Geological Survey Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, and the Hawaii Secretariat for Conservation Biology.

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