



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute

School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology

Charcoal for Terra Preta Applications

Pre-historic Amazonians added large amounts of charcoal to their oxisol soil to render it fertile. In addition to increasing their soil's fertility, the Amazonians sequestered carbon by their use of charcoal soil amendments. Today these "Terra Preta" soils are so valuable that they are mined and sold as potting soil. Unfortunately, some charcoal soil amendments are detrimental to plant growth. Knowledge of the beneficial (and detrimental) properties will enable the production of specific charcoals for use as beneficial soil amendments. These soil amendments can reduce the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, and increase the production of high-value, organically grown foods – all with carbon sequestration as a desired byproduct. This seminar will present the current status of terra preta research at UH.

Michael J. Antal, Jr.

Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute
and

Goro Uehara

Tropical Plant and Soil Science

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