

at his final stop for palms. He had found his paradise, his Shangri-La. In 1998 and 2000 I spent several days with him as my guide, visiting the more important public and private palm collections in and around Hilo, Hawaii. It was a grand time because we saw palms, talked palms and reminisced about our past times (Fig. 1). He had amassed quite a collection of palms, most of which were still in containers. Somewhat frustrated, he frequently lamented to me that he was unable to plant as many palms as he wanted in his piece of rain forest around his home simply

because he had insufficient time. Slowly failing health and his palm-seed-collecting business slowed or eliminated his palm-planting activity.

Ken loved palms. Few equalled and none surpassed his passion and desire to grow as many species as possible. While others may be or were more acquisitive, no one loved palms with such passion the way Ken did. Many of the palms seen in gardens in California, Florida and, especially, Hawaii are ones he introduced, and they stand proudly as the most appropriate memorials to Ken.

## Photo Feature



Dates (*Phoenix dactylifera*) are one of the most important agricultural crops in the Arabian Peninsula. Wherever the water supply permits, date groves are planted and tended, adding considerably to the beauty of the landscape. Here in Wadi Tiwi in the mountains of eastern Oman, dates occupy the spring-fed valley bottoms amid the rugged limestone mountains (Photo: J. Dransfield).