

1999 FLOWERING SILVERSWORD CENSUS HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARK



Every year all the silverswords that flower are counted and 11 permanent plots are monitored. This year's census was performed from October 4 to October 6, 1999. There were 267 flowering silverswords counted during the census. There were also 16 flowering hybrid swords counted. One of the more noticeable aspects of this year's census was the number of silverswords that died. This year's plot data shows that about 12% of the silverswords in the plots died this year. Last year the death rate within the plots was about 6% and the year before that was about 2.5%, which is the average death rate. You can observe this abnormal death rate for yourself by looking at the silversword planter boxes in front of headquarters. The high death rate this year may be attributed to a lack of rainfall, as the last two years have been some of the driest on record.

Much mahalo to the staff and volunteers that joined in this year's count: Stacy Forsyth, Allison Cammack, Ilana Abrahamson, Ryan Luskin, Mike Townsend, Stefanie Ribak, Mark from Maui Time, Renate Duvall, Jenny Pickett, Catherine Clar, Betty Rossen, Forest Starr and Kim Martz.

