



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: February 25, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Trade Winds Bring Clouds and Showers



Weather Review

Weather conditions were fair to good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, February 25. Diminishing trade winds continued to blow across the State for most of the week. Early in the week, winds in the 12 to 25 mph range continued to hamper irrigation and spraying. Wind intensity, however, diminished as the week progressed and were in the 5-15 range over the weekend. The presence of nearly constant trade winds resulted in a daily mixture of partly cloudy skies and mostly light showers. Rainfall was concentrated in windward areas due to the trade wind flow, but leeward also received scattered showers. An upper-level low pressure system northeast of the Hawaii resulted in enhanced shower activity during the week and increased rainfall over the weekend. Windward areas of Kauai County were pelted with over 4 inches of rain from Friday into the early morning hours of Saturday.

Hawaii County

Weather conditions were favorable in most parts of the island during the week. Wet conditions in upper Puna coupled with cool temperatures slowed crop progress. Brief periods of sunny weather appeared between showers and

allowed saturated soils to drain. The rest of Puna, Hilo, and most of Hamakua were relatively wet with passing showers brought in by easterly and northeasterly winds. Most of the rainfall occurred in windward areas; while leeward sections were left with little precipitation. North Kohala slopes received light passing showers as did some upper slopes of Kona. However, for the most part, these districts were dry. Strong trades early in the week kept Waimea farmers busy with irrigation needs. Puukapu farms received some good rains by midweek, and soil moisture was raised to adequate levels. Irrigation was needed in Lalamilo as clouds broke up and left little moisture. Ka'u was dry most of the week with lots of cloud cover, especially over the slopes. On Friday, rainfall was wide spread in windward areas with nearly every gauge recording some moisture.

Maui County

Weather conditions during the week continued to be a combination of partly sunny skies, occasional passing cloud cover, and mostly light precipitation. Some windward sections of Maui Island continued to receive intermittent showers toward the end of the week. Leeward sections of the island were relatively dry, although some precipitation fell in the mountain

areas. Winds continued to be persistent throughout the week, except for late Thursday evening to early Friday morning when some windward sections and parts of the central area saw a notable absence of wind. By Friday afternoon, the trade winds returned with occasional gusts. The Upcountry area may have received some light showers, but overall the area was dry.

Honolulu County

Weather conditions were good to fair for crop progress on Oahu during the week. Mostly sunny days with light showers and breezy trade winds prevailed in the crop-growing areas across the island. Windward crop-growing areas experienced light showers with increasing overcast skies and heavier rains by the weekend. Leeward and central Oahu districts were sunny and dry with occasional gusty trade winds bringing in light showers to the crop-growing areas. Temperatures were moderate during the day with some cooling during the night and early morning hours. Most orchard crops made good progress during the week. Leafy crops also made good progress. Spraying for insect infestation and control of diseases were back on schedule.

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Kauai County

Weather conditions for Kauai were good to poor for crop progress during the week. Partly sunny days with light rains early in the week were favorable for most crops. However, thundershowers on Friday and into Saturday caused some flooding in low-lying crop growing areas of the island. The Hanalei bridge was closed due to flood waters from 6 pm Feb. 23 through 5 am Feb. 24. The combination of heavy rains in Hanalei and a high tide caused the rain water to back up into several low-lying taro fields and remain until the next morning when the low tide allowed the flood water to recede. Newly planted taro fields were washed out with very sparse seed supplies available. Trade winds were moderate and occasionally gusty during the week. The late-week rainfall was favorable for orchards on the leeward side of the island and replenished reservoir levels which had dipped due to previously dry weather. Orchard and field crops made fair to good progress during the week. Leafy vegetables and other cool weather crops made good progress. Spraying for insect and disease control was on regular schedules.



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Banana

Soil moisture in eastern sections of Hawaii County orchards was more than adequate and the fields were in generally good condition. Cool nights slowed growth. Wet field conditions also slowed activity. Replanting continued in selected fields. Banana Bunchy Top virus incidences remained isolated in the Puna and Kona areas. Oahu orchards were in fair to good condition. Windward fields made fair to good progress recovering

from previous weeks of gusty winds. Leeward and central Oahu fields remained in fair to good condition. Irrigation was at moderate to heavy levels. The Waimanalo Irrigation System continued a 10-percent voluntary water conservation request. Fruit development and ripening continued to improve during the week with the increasing day length and beneficial sunny skies. Overall harvesting on Oahu was expected to be at moderate levels. Orchards on Kauai were in fair to good condition. Crop progress remained slightly slowed due to the wind damage from the previous weeks.

Papaya

On the Big Island, soil moisture was high in most Puna orchards. Days were breezy and wet with some scattered sunny periods. Growth was active, and flowering was steady. Some fruit gaps were noticed, but most trees have full columns. Some preparations for replanting were occurring in the Kapoho and Opihikao areas of the Puna District. Orchards on Kauai were in fair to poor condition. A decrease in production is forecast in the coming weeks as tree losses from the damage of the previous winds are expected to reduce fruits for harvest. New plantings made fair progress. Spraying to contain insect infestation was on schedule.

Vegetables

Head Cabbage

The crop in the Big Island's Waimea area was in generally good condition. Irrigation was heavy and steady. Planting and harvesting activities were active. The Volcano crop was in fair condition. Crop progress was slow due to the cool conditions. Maui's crop continued to show steady progress. Insect pressure for most fields was low to moderate. Insect damage remained under control with close monitoring and timely spraying. Overall, the

head cabbage crop was in fair to good condition. On Oahu, new fields were in good condition with fields in active harvest. Insect infestation remained under control and head quality was good.

Dry Onions

The crop on the Island of Maui continued to make steady progress. A lack of rainfall in the major growing areas helped to minimize losses from rot, but it also allowed for some insect populations to increase. Close monitoring of the fields was necessary to ensure timely spraying to maintain low population of insects. Most fields were in good condition, but some fields were taking longer to bulb. Producers were allowing some fields to remain in the ground longer to develop larger bulbs.

Miscellaneous

Coffee

Kauai's orchards were in good condition. Rains were beneficial for flowering and for overall soil moisture. Heavier rains at the upper elevations increased the reservoir levels for irrigation purposes.

Macadamia Nuts

Orchards in the Puna District of the Island of Hawaii were beginning to show flowers. Wet conditions during the week, however, raise concerns of blossom blight.

Taro

Flooding in the major taro for poi producing area is expected to slow taro planting and future production. Losses of newly planted fields have been reported. Flooding from a year-ago, has reduced current harvest and resulted in a shortage of seeds for replanting.

Monthly Trend for Selected Stations

Comparison of 2007 cumulative monthly and annual totals with average monthly totals for selected stations. ^{1/}

Station name		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
<i>Inches</i>														
Island of Hawaii														
1. Kamuela	2007	1.4	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8
	Average	6.6	6.0	7.9	6.9	4.0	2.2	3.7	4.1	2.2	3.3	5.8	7.3	60.0
2. Kealahou	2007	2.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9
	Average	4.7	3.4	5.6	6.2	7.7	8.2	8.7	8.3	8.2	6.2	4.4	3.4	75.0
3. Laupahoehoe	2007	6.7	7.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.9
	Average	13.5	13.2	19.5	18.9	11.7	6.2	10.0	12.4	6.9	9.3	13.6	14.8	150.0
4. Mt. View	2007	18.2	8.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.4
	Average	14.1	13.6	19.6	18.0	13.1	9.4	12.8	14.6	10.7	12.1	15.8	16.2	170.0
5. Pahala	2007	1.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
	Average	7.7	6.1	6.3	5.0	3.8	2.2	2.1	3.3	3.4	4.2	5.5	5.4	55.0
6. Pahoa	2007	12.2	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.5
	Average	13.9	10.9	10.5	13.9	10.5	7.1	9.8	10.6	9.2	11.5	13.3	14.6	140.0
Island of Maui														
7. Hana	2007	1.3	3.3 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6 _p
	Average	8.5	5.7	9.1	7.5	5.9	4.1	5.9	5.8	6.1	7.3	8.0	6.1	80.0
8. Kula	2007	0.4	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
	Average	3.5	3.0	2.5	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.5	2.3	3.3	22.3
9. Lahainaluna	2007	0.2	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
	Average	4.4	2.7	2.4	1.7	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	1.0	2.0	3.4	20.0
10. Wailuku	2007	0.5	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
	Average	5.2	3.8	3.6	3.0	1.2	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.7	2.9	4.3	28.0
Island of Oahu														
11. Kahuku	2007	2.9	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1
	Average	6.3	4.2	5.3	4.0	2.5	1.9	2.2	2.6	2.2	4.0	4.6	5.3	45.0
12. Mililani	2007	4.3	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9
	Average	6.4	4.9	4.9	4.0	2.5	1.7	2.1	2.4	1.7	3.7	4.5	6.2	45.0
13. Waianae	2007	2.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4
	Average	3.8	2.3	2.5	1.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7	1.8	2.0	3.3	20.0
14. Waimanalo	2007	2.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
	Average	6.8	4.6	3.6	3.2	3.2	1.5	1.6	1.5	2.0	3.7	5.6	5.5	42.8
Island of Kauai														
15. Anahola	2007	3.2	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8
	Average	6.8	4.4	6.0	4.6	3.2	1.6	2.5	2.5	2.0	5.1	5.4	5.9	50.0
16. Hanalei	2007	4.9	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.9
	Average	11.8	9.4	13.4	12.2	9.3	6.5	9.8	8.7	6.9	8.5	10.2	12.0	118.7
17. Omao	2007	2.8 _p	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8 _p
	Average	6.9	4.5	5.5	5.2	4.2	3.4	4.7	4.6	3.8	4.7	5.9	6.7	60.0

^{1/} Rainfall stations were selected from the National Weather Service's Hydronet system of automated rain gauges. All data has not been quality controlled to date, and therefore is not certified by the National Weather Service.

M = Missing. p = Partial or incomplete. e = Estimated. * = More than zero, but less than .05 inches of rain.

Precipitation for week ending February 25, 2007
Daily, weekly, and year-to-date precipitation totals for selected Hawaii stations.^{1/}

Station name and identification number	24-Hour totals at 8 a.m.							Weekly total	Jan. 1 to date
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		
								<i>Inches</i>	
Island of Hawaii									
1. Kamuela (HI86)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.12	0.00	0.31	4.83
2. Kealakekua (HI84)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.05	3.85
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.39	0.26	0.21	0.11	0.27	0.64	0.06	1.94	13.94
4. Mt. View (HI81)	1.28	0.30	0.64	0.15	0.37	1.76	1.48	5.98	26.37
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.18	2.05
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.32	0.23	0.48	0.21	0.30	1.33	0.56	3.43	18.49
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.02	0.09	0.42	0.01	0.11	0.38	0.01	1.04	4.60
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.95
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	1.78
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.00	0.16	4.13
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.03	0.07	0.02	0.03	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.24	5.94
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.43
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.04	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.16	3.52
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.05	0.00	0.20	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.34	5.82
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.28	0.02	0.29	0.10	0.28	1.13	0.84	2.94	11.91
17. Omao (HI51)	0.03	0.08	0.18	0.04	0.57	0.04	0.22	1.16	4.80

^{1/} Rainfall stations were selected from the National Weather Service's Hydronet system of automated rain gauges. All data has not been quality controlled to date, and therefore is not certified by the National Weather Service.

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