



# Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

Week ending: September 23, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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## Trade Winds Continue To Blow As Fall Arrives



### Weather Review

Weather conditions remained fair to good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, September 23. Trade winds continued to generate partly cloudy skies and light to moderate showers in windward areas. Leeward areas were mostly sunny with some showers drifting over from the windward side. Daytime temperatures were in the upper 80s, but cooler than normal. Overall, most crops were in fair to good condition. Spraying for control of insects and diseases were on a regular schedule. Fall started on Saturday and Hawaii enters its rainy season in October. The Pacific El Nino/Southern Oscillation Applications Center has predicted above-normal precipitation for Hawaii from December 2007 to March 2008.

#### Hawaii County

Windward sections of the Big Island received good showers while leeward and southern areas remained mostly dry during the week. Hilo and surrounding areas had mostly cloudy skies, showers mainly in the evenings and early mornings, and some sunny periods. On Wednesday, steady showers in the Hilo area added more moisture to already saturated fields. Field activities were temporarily halted.

The Hamakua District had passing showers and partly sunny skies. Beneficial showers on Wednesday provide good moisture to orchards and pastures. In Waimea, Puukapu was partly cloudy with a few light showers. Lalamilo was windy and dry. Soil moisture was low, but heavy irrigation ensured normal crop progress. In Kona, the upper south and central districts received light afternoon showers. Orchards and pastures had just enough moisture to sustain normal growth. The northern sections of Kona were generally dry with isolated light showers at the higher slopes. Weather in the Ka'u District was windy and dry. Orchards had some moisture from showers that fell at the beginning of the week, but more rains would be welcomed. Coastal pastures remained very dry. Volcano experienced cool and mostly cloudy weather. Evening showers helped to relieve the dry conditions of previous weeks.

#### Maui County

Weather conditions continued to be mostly sunny and fair. Brief trade wind showers continued to pass over most sections of Maui and particularly along windward coastline areas. Temperatures were slightly cooler from the previous weeks and brought some relief for cool-climate crops. The central area of Maui had some periods of overcast skies and light passing

rainfall. However, the showers did not detrimentally affect crops or hampered field activities. Kula continued to be very dry. However, sufficient irrigation water was available and crops were doing as well as can be expected for this time of the year. Pastures in Kula remained very dry with a minimal amount of re-growth available. Most pastures were still able to provide dry forage. Pastures in Keokea and Ulupalakua showed a good amount of re-growth from rainfall received last month. Leeward sections of the island continued to be dry. Moloka'i was generally dry and irrigation water was available for agricultural users; however, daily use was exceeding inflow volume. Irrigation water on Moloka'i was adequate.

#### Honolulu County

Weather conditions remained fair to good for crop development on Oahu. Island-wide sunny days, high temperatures, and breezy trade winds prevailed for the week. Light, but favorable, night and early morning showers during the early part of the week brought cooler temperatures to the windward crop growing districts. The leeward coast remained sunny and dry with high temperatures and light to brisk trade winds. Irrigation levels remained heavy in most crop growing areas. The Waimanalo irrigation system level was measured at 14.75 feet as of

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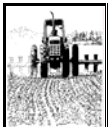
## Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather (continued)

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September 21, 2007. The low levels necessitated a continuation of the conservation measure requiring a 30 percent cutback in water usage for all consumers of the Waimanalo Irrigation system. Most fruit and vine crops in other areas made fair to good progress. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was moderate to high during the week.

### Kauai County

Weather conditions were good to fair for crop progress during the week. Sunny days, high temperatures, and moderate trade winds with intermittent showers prevailed. Most leeward crop growing areas remained fairly dry with active planting and harvesting continuing on schedule. Windward crop growing districts, and fields at the upper elevations, received some showers during the week. However, the overall dry soil conditions and windy weather made irrigation needs heavy at times. Orchards and fruit crops were in fair condition. Leafy crops made fair progress due to the high temperatures. Pressure from insect infestation and damage were at moderate levels. Spraying for control was on a regular schedule. The continued dry weather resulted in an island-wide drop in reservoir levels. This was causing concern for operations dependent on those resources for their irrigation supply.



## Agricultural Highlights

### Fruits

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#### Bananas

Orchards in eastern sections of the Big Island were in generally good condition. Favorable showers provided good moisture. Spraying and leaf trimming helped to minimize Black Leaf Streak disease incidences. Bunchy Top incidences remained localized in the Puna and Kona districts. Oahu orchards were

in fair to good condition. Leeward and central Oahu fields were in good condition with heavy to moderate supplies for the market. Heavy irrigation continued as the fields remained dry. Windward fields were in fair to good condition with light to moderate supplies. Overall harvesting on Oahu was expected to be at moderate to heavy levels as the shorter day length and slightly cooler temperatures have slowed ripening. Kauai's orchards were in fair to good condition. Spraying for insect infestation was on a regular schedule.

#### Papayas

Orchards in the lower Puna area of Hawaii County were in good to fair condition. Ample soil moisture and sunny periods helped to boost flowering and fruit development. Field activities such as spraying for disease control and fertilizing were active. Young and new orchards made steady progress. On Oahu, some orchards were re-worked for future harvest after being damaged by a wildfire. In other areas, fruit development and ripening were fair to good with the high temperatures slowing crop progress. Ring spot virus and wild pig damage in some fields lowered yields. Orchards on Kauai continued to make good to fair progress during the week. Pickings were at moderate levels from several fields in harvest with some new fields in active harvest boosting available supplies.

### Vegetables

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#### Head Cabbage

The Big Island's Waimea crop made good progress with heavy irrigation. Young plantings made steady growth. Light production was expected from Volcano fields. Supplies were mainly for the local markets. On Maui, insect pressure in most of the major growing areas has decreased and damage also declined. Weather conditions have

cooled and producers noted that this was beneficial for the crop. Relief from the hot daytime temperatures and the cool evening temperatures allowed some improvement in the quality of the crop. Growth and development was steady, but may soon begin to show signs of slowing down as day length begins to shorten. Planting has been steady and production was expected to stay at current levels. The head cabbage crop was in fair to good condition.

#### Sweet corn

Windward and central Oahu fields continued to make good progress with the sunny, dry weather and heavy irrigation. Areas affected by water use restrictions have cut back on planting activities and have experienced decreased yields. The Big Island's young corn crop continued to make good progress. Harvesting was active and supplies were for local sales.

### Other Crops

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#### Coffee

On Kauai, orchards were in good condition with active harvesting anticipated to continue. Sunny days and moderate trade winds kept fields in good condition for harvesting. Rainfall has been light and reservoir levels continued to decrease causing some concern.

#### Ginger root

The Big Island's crop made good growth during the week. Very damp conditions, however, slowed fieldwork.

#### Persimmon

Maui's persimmon crop was in good condition. There were some reports of deer entering the field, but so far damage has been minimal. Insect pressure has also been minimal. At the current rate of development, the crop is expected to reach maturity in October with harvesting to begin shortly thereafter. ■

## Monthly Trend for Selected Stations

Comparison of 2007 cumulative monthly and annual totals with average monthly totals for selected stations. <sup>1/</sup>

Station name		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
<i>Inches</i>														
<b>Island of Hawaii</b>														
1. Kamuela	2007	1.4	3.7	1.3	0.8	0.4	1.9	2.7	1.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3
	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	2.5	1.7	2.6 <sub>p</sub>	3.3	3.7	7.3 <sub>p</sub>	5.4	6.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.3 <sub>p</sub>
	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	12.3	6.0 <sub>p</sub>	1.2 <sub>p</sub>	1.1	3.0	3.8	5.7	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.2 <sub>p</sub>
	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	14.1	11.3	10.3	3.6	9.0	9.1	8.8	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.7
	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	4.2	1.2	0.6	0.1	2.0	41.8	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.9
	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	13.4	7.0	7.8 <sub>p</sub>	2.7	6.3	7.6	8.1	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	71.7 <sub>p</sub>
	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
<b>Island of Maui</b>														
7. Hana	2007	1.3	4.0 <sub>p</sub>	2.6 <sub>p</sub>	4.2	2.2	2.2	4.7	4.0	3.3 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.4 <sub>p</sub>
	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	1.8	2.4	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.6	2.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1
	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	*	0.2	0.1	0.0	*	*	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
	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	3.5	1.8	0.2	*	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.2
	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
<b>Island of Oahu</b>														
11. Kahuku	2007	2.9	1.4	4.2	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.6
	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	2.5	3.7	2.0	1.2	1.9	2.1	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.1
	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	2.7	0.6	1.2	0.1	*	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.2
	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	3.2 <sub>p</sub>	1.9	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0 <sub>p</sub>
	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
<b>Island of Kauai</b>														
15. Anahola	2007	3.2	3.8	4.5	2.5	2.4	1.6	2.8	1.5	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.1
	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	10.5	6.5	4.5	1.3	2.8	3.9 <sub>p</sub>	3.0	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.5 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	4.6	4.1	2.0	1.5	3.5	3.2	3.4	1.6 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.7 <sub>p</sub>
	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

<sup>1/</sup> 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 September 23, 2007  
Daily, weekly, and year-to-date precipitation totals for selected Hawaii stations.<sup>1/</sup>

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>									
<b>Island of Hawaii</b>									
1. Kamuela (HI86)	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.13	14.30
2. Kealahou (HI84)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.04	2.17	2.46	35.28
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.73	0.48	0.81	0.44	0.08	0.65	0.00	3.19	44.18
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.69	0.66	0.63	1.17	0.28	0.88	0.13	4.44	92.74
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.85
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.94	0.70	1.00	0.45	0.20	0.61	0.07	3.97	71.65
<b>Island of Maui</b>									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.07	0.04	0.06	0.01	0.04	M	0.26	0.48	28.42
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.06
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.07	8.21
<b>Island of Oahu</b>									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	14.55
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.04	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.13	0.02	0.00	0.28	19.14
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	8.17
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.03	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	12.04
<b>Island of Kauai</b>									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.17	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.33	23.14
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.09	0.19	0.15	0.33	0.21	0.13	0.00	1.10	41.51
17. Omao (HI51)	0.02	0.12	0.11	0.03	M	M	M	0.28	26.69

<sup>1/</sup> 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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