



# Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

Week ending: October 21, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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## Calm Conditions Favorable For Agriculture



### Weather Review

Weather conditions were mostly good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, October 21. Trade winds continued to maintain a mostly sunny and dry weather pattern. Showers were mainly limited to windward areas with a few isolated showers drifting over to leeward areas. Temperatures were near normal levels, but a daily record-tying low of 66 degrees was recorded in Hilo on Sunday. Overall, the calm conditions were favorable for crop growth, fieldwork, and spraying. The mostly light showers added to soil moisture and helped replenish reservoirs.

#### Hawaii County

Weather conditions were mostly good for crops during the week. Puna and Hilo districts were mostly sunny with broken clouds and passing showers. Tuesday was an exception when rain clouds moved in and dropped moisture in these areas as well as up the windward coast. Non-irrigated fields and orchards benefited from the slight rise in soil moisture. Rainfall lessened further north and only trace amounts were recorded in Hamakua and North Kohala gauges on this day. Little moisture occurred the rest of the week, and warm sunny conditions prevailed into the

weekend. Leeward Kohala and North Kona districts continued to deal with drought-like conditions. Farms in Puukapu and Lalamilo were irrigating as normal to maintain crop progress. A few very light passing showers occurred, but conditions in other non-irrigated areas continued to decline as soil moisture waned. Many pasture areas were in poor condition and in need of moisture. Others areas were declining in condition due to a lack of rain. South Kona was mostly sunny with partly cloudy skies. Cloud cover occurred on most days over upslope areas. Little to no rain fell during the week, but most non-irrigated orchards and pastures were fairing well due to fairly consistent showers falling over the slopes in past weeks. Ka'u experienced mostly dry weather although the gauge at South Point recorded .40 inches of rain on Tuesday. Upslope cloud cover produced trace amounts of moisture which helped to cool and slow moisture loss in surrounding fields.

#### Maui County

Trade winds brought frequent showers to windward and upper elevation areas. Periodic windward showers have been steadily increasing in the past several weeks, and they have been beneficial for the irrigation water supply. Trade winds calmed to light

breezes by the end of the week. There was no significant rainfall noted in the central sections of the islands. Both central and leeward sections of Maui and Moloka'i continued to be very dry. A few isolated showers were noted over some leeward areas.

#### Honolulu County

Weather conditions were good for crop development during the week. Windward crop-growing areas experienced sunny days, light passing showers, and light to moderate trade winds for most of the week. Leeward districts remained sunny and dry. Temperatures were moderate to high, and trade winds were light to moderate. Irrigation needs remained high for most areas. Slightly cooler temperatures slowed insect populations in most areas. The Waimanalo irrigation system level was measured at 19.00 feet as of October 19, 2007. The current mandatory conservation measure of 30-percent cutback in water usage for all consumers of the Waimanalo Irrigation system remained in place. Most fruit and vine crops in other areas made good progress. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was moderate with regular spraying for control.

#### Kauai County

Weather conditions for Kauai were good for crop progress during the

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## Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather (continued)

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week. A high pressure system remained northwest of the state maintaining trade winds at light to moderate levels. Favorable showers prevailed in the windward crop growing areas and at the upper elevations. Isolated heavy rains fell on the north side of the island at midweek interrupting some field activities. Leeward crop-growing areas remained mostly sunny and dry with light to moderate winds and very little rainfall. Orchards and fruit crops were in good condition. Temperatures were slightly cooler with the continued trade winds and light showers. Leafy crops made fair to good progress with the increased soil moisture. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was at light to moderate levels. Spraying for control was on regular schedules.



### Agricultural Highlights

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#### Fruits

##### **Bananas**

On the Big Island, warm temperatures kept harvesting fairly steady, but slightly cooler temperatures and shorter days should soon slow production. Banana Bunchy Top virus incidence remained isolated in the Puna and Kona areas. Oahu orchards were in good to fair condition. Leeward and central fields were in good condition with moderate to heavy supplies for the market. Heavy irrigation continued as most areas received little or no rain during the week. Windward Oahu fields were in fair to good condition with light supplies. Overall harvesting on Oahu is 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. Passing showers provided favorable soil moisture for most orchards. Spraying for insect infestation was on a regular schedule.

##### **Papayas**

Big Island orchards were in fair to good condition. Soil moisture was maintained by light passing showers and some cloud cover during the week. Steady flowering was noticed. Recent spray activity has reduced weed growth in some orchards. Young orchards were progressing rapidly. Overall harvesting was at a moderate level on Oahu. Some orchards were being re-worked for future harvest after being damaged by a wildfire. In other areas, fruit development and ripening were fair to good with relief from the high temperatures favoring crop progress. Orchards on Kauai continued to make fair to good progress during the week. Pickings continued at moderate to light levels from several fields in active harvest.

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#### Vegetables

##### **Head Cabbage**

Some Big Island fields showed rapid weed growth competing with the crop, but overall crop conditions were fair to good. Planting has been steady during the week. Heavy irrigation was needed to maintain progress. Maui's crop continued to make steady progress and was in good condition. Quality was reportedly good. Insect pressure remained relatively low and damage by insects was under control with timely spraying. Growth and development slowed, but production was being adjusted to stabilize a consistent supply into the marketplace. On Oahu, harvesting will be light. Insect infestation was light with regular spraying keeping populations under control.

##### **Sweet corn**

Harvesting from Oahu fields is expected to be at moderate to

heavy levels as several fields were in active harvest. Pressure from insect infestation was at light to moderate levels.

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#### Other Crops

##### **Coffee**

The coffee crop in the Ka`u District of the Big Island was progressing well, and harvesting was active in most orchards. Regular moisture over the slopes benefited bean development. Outlook for the crop was generally good. There have been reports of a later than normal season. Kauai's orchards were in good condition due to favorable weather during the week. Mostly sunny days prevailed with beneficial rains which kept the reservoirs supplied for irrigation. Overall soil moisture was good and helped to ensure normal crop development. Coffee harvesting has also started on Molokai where fields have been rejuvenated.

##### **Jack-O-Lantern Pumpkins**

Active harvesting of pumpkins and gourds continued on Oahu as Halloween nears. Sunny and dry conditions allowed the crop to make good progress with good fruit set and sizing.

##### **Sugarcane**

On Kauai, harvesting has ended for the season. Planting activities are expected to continue for several more weeks. Favorable weather conditions, including rain at the upper elevations, kept reservoir levels and ditches supplied which allowed for adequate irrigation for good crop progress. Steady harvesting continued on Maui. Generally dry weather in the Central areas aided harvesting activities. ■

## 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	1.2	0.9 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	16.0 <sub>p</sub>
	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	7.5	2.3 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	38.3 <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	4.9	4.9 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	49.6 <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	11.2	5.5 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	101.1 <sub>p</sub>
	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	1.2	0.1 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	53.3 <sub>p</sub>
	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	10.5	5.3 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	80.9 <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	5.1 <sub>p</sub>	4.3 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	34.5 <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	0.8	0.4 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	9.6 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	0.7 <sub>p</sub>
	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	0.6 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	8.9 <sub>p</sub>
	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	1.4	0.3 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	15.6 <sub>p</sub>
	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	1.7	2.1 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	22.2 <sub>p</sub>
	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	0.3	0.0 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	8.2 <sub>p</sub>
	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	1.0	0.5 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	12.9 <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	1.3	0.6 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	24.0 <sub>p</sub>
	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	5.6	4.4 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	47.4 <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>	1.5 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	28.2 <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 October 21, 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)	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.15	15.97
2. Kealahou (HI84)	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	38.25
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.09	0.04	0.00	0.25	49.60
4. Mt. View (HI81)	M	0.08	0.54	0.09	0.24	0.14	0.00	1.09	101.14
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.05	53.30
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.05	0.15	0.43	0.02	0.11	0.12	0.00	0.88	80.92
<b>Island of Maui</b>									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.34	0.18	0.92	0.03	0.02	0.23	0.07	1.79	34.49
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.60
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	8.87
<b>Island of Oahu</b>									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	M	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.10	15.61
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.06	22.23
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.22
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.05	12.94
<b>Island of Kauai</b>									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	24.03
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.33	0.00	0.39	0.79	0.02	0.00	0.00	1.53	47.36
17. Omao (HI51)	M	M	M	M	M	0.00	M	0.00	28.15

<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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