



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: March 18, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Slow Moving Cold Front Brings Heavy Showers



Weather Review

A slow moving cold front dominated weather conditions and enabled crops to make fair to good progress during the week ending Sunday, March 18. Ahead of the approaching front, southerly winds were reaching gusts in the 30-40 mph range. The winds drew in moist, tropical air from the south which generated light to moderate showers. By Tuesday, the cold front arrived on Kauai and produced locally heavy showers. A flash flood warning was issued for the islands of Kauai and Niihau. The cold front lingered over Kauai for a day before moving eastward through the rest of the State. Flash flood warnings were eventually posted for Oahu and Molokai due to the heavy showers generated by the passing front. Two other rare weather events occurred during the week. Residents near Ninole on the Big Island reported pea-sized hail on Thursday, and waterspouts were observed off Oahu and Kauai on Friday. Although the showery weather hampered spray programs and fieldwork, the additional rain helped to replenish soil moisture and fill reservoirs.

Hawaii County

Weather conditions on the Big Island were generally good for

crops during the week. Hilo and surrounding areas experienced partly cloudy skies and sunny periods. Showers on Wednesday and Thursday helped to alleviate some of the dry conditions that persisted for about two weeks. Southerly winds continued to transport thick volcanic haze to the windward sections of the island. The Hamakua District had partly cloudy to sunny skies and light to moderate showers during the week. In Waimea, Puukapu had a mixture of partly sunny skies mixed with cloudy periods and light showers. Lalamilo had high cloud cover and light passing showers. Crops were on heavy irrigation. Winds were light. Good showers at the upper slopes of the Kohala Mountains kept pastures in fair to good condition. The Kona districts experienced clear mornings, cloudy afternoons, and isolated showers. Upper North Kona and Waikii sections received good showers on Wednesday. South Kona received isolated thundershowers on Friday evening. In the Ka`u district, Kapapala to Naalehu received good showers. Adequate soil moisture benefited orchard and pasture development. The Kahuku area received moderate to heavy showers on Friday. The Volcano area was generally dry with sunny mornings and cloudy afternoons.

Heavy volcanic haze covered the area on certain days.

Maui County

A cold front brought rain showers over Maui County during the week. Most of the rain fell on Wednesday. Heavy rains with thunder and lightning made outdoor work unsafe. The drenching rainfall affected most parts of Maui County. Lanai City was reported to have received over an inch of rainfall on Tuesday. Heavy rainfall and thunder and lightning were also reported for most areas of Moloka'i on Wednesday. Agricultural activities were postponed on many operations during the middle of the week, with some activity resuming by Friday. Flooding and wet ground conditions prevented field entry. By the end of the week, increased periods of sunshine were received on the central and leeward sections of the island. Some areas began to dry-out, but there were still areas that had pooled water puddles and mud along the roadways. Evening showers occurred in some windward coastline areas when trade winds returned later in the week. By the weekend, brisk trade winds prevailed with increased sunny skies. The recent rainfall helped to improve pasture conditions; some areas showed signs of re-growth after a few days.

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Honolulu County

Weather conditions were fair to good for crop progress on Oahu during the week. Days remained sunny and dry with intermittent overcast skies and light to moderate showers as a cold front passed over the island. Windward crop growing areas experienced a mixture of sunny days with southerly winds early in the week and light to occasionally heavy showers during the latter part of the week. Leeward and central Oahu districts remained mostly sunny and dry. Light rains at midweek, and at the end of the week, reached some crop growing areas. A 10-percent voluntary water conservation request remained in effect for users of the Waimanalo Irrigation System. Temperatures were moderate during the day with some cooling as the trade winds returned at the end of the week. Most orchard crops made good progress during the week with the sunny weather and favorable rainfall. Leafy crops made fair to good progress. Spraying for insect infestation and control of diseases were on schedule.

Kauai County

Weather conditions for Kauai were good to fair for crop progress during the week. The approach and passing of a cold front from the west of the state brought widely variable weather during the week. Southerly winds, high humidity, and thunder showers prevailed in most crop growing areas at midweek and slowed most farm activities for the week. On Friday, trade winds brought showers to windward and higher elevation areas. Orchard and field crops made fair progress during the week. Leafy vegetables and other cool-weather crops also made fair progress. Spraying for insect and disease control was hindered because of the wet conditions. Sugar harvest was delayed because of the rains and is expected to begin at the end of March. Coffee fields made good

progress with the welcomed rainfall. Ditches and irrigation systems were replenished.



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Banana

Orchards in eastern sections of Hawaii County made good growth. Showers on Wednesday and Thursday helped to keep soil moisture adequate. Regular spraying minimized disease and insect damage. Banana Bunchy Top incidences remained isolated in the Puna and Kona areas. Oahu orchards were in fair to good condition. Fields in windward Oahu made fair to good progress with light to moderate harvesting. Leeward and central fields remained in fair to good condition. Irrigation levels were at moderate levels during the week. Fruit development and ripening continued to improve during the week with the increasing day length and beneficial sunny skies. Kauai's orchards were in fair to good condition. Crop progress remained steady and made good recovery from previous wind damage.

Papaya

Warmer temperatures and sunny periods are benefiting orchard progress in the lower Puna areas of the Big Island. Soil moisture was adequate. Regular spraying was necessary to minimize disease damage. Mature trees in the Kapoho and Opihikao area have medium sized fruits and full fruit columns. Good weather conditions were encouraging good flower and fruit set. Growers are replanting in the lower Kapoho area. Orchards on Kauai made fair to good progress during the week. Rains and overcast skies slowed crop progress during the week. Sprayings to contain insect

infestation was delayed, but are expected to be stepped-up as soon as the fields dry.

Vegetables

Head Cabbage

Big Island growers were harvesting medium to large heads. Head quality was generally good. Tall weeds were observed in the Puukapu fields. New plantings made steady progress in Lalamilo. Heavy irrigation was required. Selective spraying minimized damage from disease and insects. On Oahu, new fields were in good condition. Insect infestations remained under control and head quality was good. On Maui, weather conditions hampered field activities for most operations. Some plantings were delayed due to wet ground conditions. Producers may be able to get on schedule later in the month depending on future weather conditions. The crop was in fair condition during the past couple of weeks.

Dry Onions

Maui's crop showed some improvement in growth and development during the past month, but with the recent weather may increase the chances of loss due to rain damage and disease from wet field conditions. The effect of this week's rains on mature fields is uncertain, and the rains could also affect production from fields in the developing stages. Currently, crop conditions range from marginally fair to fair condition depending on the location of the field.

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	3.7	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
	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	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4
	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	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.8
	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	8.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.5
	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	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7
	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	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	29.2
	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	4.0 _p	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0 _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	1.8	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4
	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
	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	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1
	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	1.4	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.4
	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	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.8
	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	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1
	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	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6
	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	3.8	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.6
	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	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.3
	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	4.6	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.8 _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 March 18, 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)	0.06	0.00	0.31	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.63	6.02
2. Kealakekua (HI84)	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	5.42
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.19	0.05	0.37	1.45	0.00	0.01	0.11	2.18	23.82
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.26	0.55	0.41	1.75	40.49
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.66	0.05	0.02	0.27	0.01	0.27	0.00	1.28	5.71
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.08	0.08	0.27	29.16
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.22	0.00	0.03	0.12	0.03	0.51	0.15	1.06	7.00
8. Kula (HI65)	0.01	0.04	0.35	0.79	0.13	0.00	0.00	1.32	4.36
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.00	0.00	0.14	1.53	0.25	0.00	0.02	1.94	5.08
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.17	0.46	0.16	0.00	0.81	6.38
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.02	0.24	0.19	0.02	0.08	0.54	0.67	1.76	9.76
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.14	0.08	0.35	0.01	0.02	1.04	0.02	1.66	5.10
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.13	0.81	0.01	0.08	1.10	5.57
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.41	0.03	0.32	0.09	1.19	0.01	0.01	2.06	10.64
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.09	2.56	0.27	0.24	3.28	20.30
17. Omao (HI51)	0.10	0.33	1.44	0.71	0.02	0.03	0.07	2.70	10.77

^{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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