



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: May 6, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Field Office · 1428 South King Street · Honolulu, HI 96814-2512 · 1-800- 804-9514 · www.nass.usda.gov

Trade Wind Weather Fair for Agriculture



Weather Review

Weather conditions were generally fair for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, May 6. Trade winds continued to dominate Statewide weather conditions resulting in light, brief showers being limited to the windward sides of most islands. Daytime temperatures were near or above normal highs while overnight temperatures were generally warmer than normal. The overall dryness necessitated the need for moderate to heavy levels of irrigation to ensure crop progress. Unlike the previous weeks, the trade winds were gentler which increased the effectiveness of spray programs and certain types of irrigation.

Hawaii County

Weather conditions were variable for crop progress during the week. Windward sections experienced generally good growing conditions for non-irrigated crops, pastures, and orchards. Hilo and surrounding areas had nighttime and early morning showers with mostly sunny days. Soil moisture was adequate and field operations were active. The Hamakua District had light passing showers and sunny to partly sunny skies. Leeward and southern areas experienced mostly sunny and dry weather. In Waimea,

Puukapu was mostly dry with occasional cloudy periods. Lalamilo remained sunny and dry with moderate trade winds. Soil moisture was low, but heavy irrigation was ensuring good crop growth. Light showers provided some moisture to pastures on the slopes of the Kohala Mountain. Areas in Kona experienced generally sunny and dry weather throughout the week. Upper sections had cloudy periods in the afternoon. The Ka'u district continued to experience dry conditions which slowed progress for orchard crops and pastures. The Volcano area had a mixture of cloudy and sunny periods.

Maui County

Generally warm and dry weather was fair to good for agriculture. Periods of cloud cover, mainly in the upper elevation sections, provided some cooling. Trade winds brought brief showers to areas extending from the northeast side of Maui to the central section of the island. These showers were generally light and did not cause any delay of farming activities. The Upcountry area of Maui continued to show signs of drying out due to the lack of significant precipitation over the past several weeks. Insect pressure appeared to increase in most fields. Pastures in the lower sections were able to provide limited amounts of green forage.

Increased irrigation was needed in most fields due to the warmer growing conditions and intermittent windy conditions especially in the lower elevation and central areas.

Honolulu County

Weather conditions remained good for crop progress during the week. Days continued sunny and dry with light rainfall and light to brisk winds. Temperatures were moderate with little cooling in the night and early-morning hours. Windward crop growing areas experienced fair weather conditions with sunny days and light passing showers throughout the week. Central Oahu and leeward crop growing areas remained mostly dry with heavy irrigation needed for normal crop development. Most fruit and vine crops made fair to good progress with the moderate trade winds keeping fields dry and in good condition. Orchard crops made fair to good progress during the week. Leafy crops made good progress benefiting from the sunny, dry days, and heavy irrigation. Spraying for insect infestation and control of diseases were back to normal in most fields.

Kauai County

Weather conditions were good to fair for crop progress for the week. Another high pressure system north of the state kept trade winds at moderate levels with light rainfall

Mark E. Hudson, Director
Steve Gunn, Deputy Director

Ronald Nakamura, Research Statistician

passing over some crop growing areas. In general, the sunny and dry weather conditions have necessitated heavier irrigation to ensure normal crop development. Most orchard and fruit crops made good progress with the beneficial weather conditions. Temperatures were moderate during the day with cooling in the night and early morning hours. Spraying for insect and disease control was scheduled later in the week as the winds calmed.



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Banana

Growing conditions are near ideal for orchards in the eastside of Hawaii Island. Light winds, sunny days, and adequate soil moisture provided good conditions for orchard progress. Spraying needed to be increased as higher disease incidences were observed. New plantings in the Pepeekeo area made steady growth. Oahu orchards were in fair to good condition. Fields in windward Oahu were in fair condition with light to moderate harvesting as the Banana Bunchy Top virus continued to hamper production. Leeward and central Oahu fields made fair to good progress. Irrigation remained at moderate to heavy levels during the week due to the windy and dry weather conditions. Fruit development and ripening continued to improve with the sunny days and warmer temperatures. Orchards on Kauai were in fair to good condition.

Papaya

Good soil moisture and sunny days helped boost orchard progress in the lower Puna area. Orchards in the Kapoho, Opihikao, and Pohoiki showed good flower and fruit set. Mature orchards have full fruit

columns with medium-sized fruits. Orchards in the Kalapana area were in fair condition. Spraying was required to minimize disease damage. Orchards on Kauai made fair to good progress during the week. Spraying to contain insect populations continued on a regular schedule.

Vegetables

Chinese Cabbage

Plantings in the Waimea area of the Big Island made rapid progress. Weeds were a problem in some fields. Disease incidence was noticed on the wrapper leaves. Insect damage was light. Heavy irrigation was required as conditions have been mostly sunny and dry. New plantings made steady progress.

Head Cabbage

The Big Island's Waimea crop was in good to fair condition. Insect and disease damage was generally light. Harvest of good quality, medium-size heads was in progress. New plantings made good progress with heavy irrigation. Maui's head cabbage crop continued to make fair to good progress. Warm growing conditions required close monitoring of the fields for timely spraying due to increased insect pressure. Warmer temperatures also required increased irrigation for most fields, especially those in the lower elevation areas. Crop quality was good, and damage from insects continued to be low. Overall, the head cabbage crop was in mostly fair condition with some fields in good condition. On Oahu, insect infestations were at light levels. New plantings were in good condition.

Sweet Corn

Newly-planted fields in windward areas of the Island of Hawaii made good progress. Soil moisture was

adequate, and crop was in fair to good condition. Weather conditions allowed central Oahu fields to make good progress. Light worm infestations were mostly under control. Windward fields made good progress during the week.

Semi-head (Manoa) Lettuce

Planting and harvesting on Oahu remained steady. Light to moderate insect infestation and damage to plants continued to slow crop progress and lower yields. Spraying to control insects was active. Most plantings on Kauai made good progress with the sunny and dry weather conditions.

Dry Onions

Weather conditions benefited Maui's crop. Warm temperatures were good for the growth and development of the crop in all stages. Conditions have not been too hot, and the periodic brisk winds were good for air circulation within the fields. Insect pressure was low. Developing fields were in good condition. Bulbs were showing good size. Young fields were also developing well and showing vigorous growth. Overall, the dry onion crop was in good condition.

Miscellaneous

Ginger Root

On the Big Island, newly planted seeds were sprouting. Adequate soil moisture and sunny periods aided crop progress. Late planting continued in isolated areas. ■

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	1.3	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2
	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	1.6 _p	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.9 _p
	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 _p	1.2 _p	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.7 _p
	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	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	54.5
	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	4.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.6
	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	7.7 _p	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.6 _p
	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	2.6 _p	4.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0 _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	2.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1
	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
	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	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1
	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	4.2	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5
	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	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.7
	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8
	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 _p	1.9	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7 _p
	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	4.5	2.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.0
	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	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.6
	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	4.1	2.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.6 _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 May 6, 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)	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	7.18
2. Kealahou (HI84)	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.05	7.86
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.23	0.07	0.36	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	26.67
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.08	0.15	0.32	0.16	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.75	54.50
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.55
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.10	0.07	0.23	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.48	40.64
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.16	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.24	12.01
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.13
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.47
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	7.05
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.05	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	9.46
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.20	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.35	12.72
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.76
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	8.68
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.15	14.03
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.10	0.09	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.39	26.64
17. Omao (HI51)	0.08	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.25	13.60

^{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.