



# Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

Week ending: May 27, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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## Relatively Dry Weather Fair for Agriculture



### Weather Review

Weather conditions were fair for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, May 27. Warm, humid weather from the previous week extended into the first few days. As a result, skies were mostly sunny and very little rain fell anywhere in the State. A typical trade wind pattern began to develop at midweek due to a strengthening high pressure system to the north. With the return of trade winds, upper elevation sections of windward facing areas began to receive light to moderate showers. Most crop growing areas, however, remained generally dry. Irrigated crops continued to make fair to good progress under the mostly sunny skies. Irrigation levels, however, were moderate to high to combat the dryness. Non-irrigated crops and pastures were in varying condition depending on location with leeward fields showing signs of stress.

### Hawaii County

Weather conditions were generally dry during the week. Hilo and surrounding areas received very light night and morning showers and mostly hot, sunny days. Showers were not enough to maintain soil moisture levels. Dry conditions slowed the progress of

non-irrigated crops, orchards, and pastures. The Hamakua District was mostly dry. An absence of trade wind showers kept soil moisture at low levels. In Waimea, Lalamilo and Puukapu experienced mostly dry weather. Puukapu had the usual afternoon cloudy skies. Very low soil moisture necessitated heavy irrigation in both areas. Leafy crops made steady progress with heavy irrigation. Light winds during the first half of the week kept conditions warm. Gusty winds returned on Thursday. The Kona districts experienced mostly cloudy and hazy skies during the first half of the week. Coastal sections experienced hot and humid weather. Higher elevation sections experienced overcast and hazy conditions. Light winds and convective heating produced isolated upslope showers early in the week. In Ka`u, weather was generally dry although light showers fell at the higher sections. Coastal pastures were brown. Orchard progress was slowed by the low moisture levels. The Volcano area had a mixture of cloudy skies with misty showers and sunny periods.

### Maui County

Weather conditions were mostly fair and sunny for the week. A lack of the trade winds from the previous weekend continued through the early part of the week. The lack of

wind for most sections of the island did not appear to have any detrimental effect on agricultural activity. Active plantings and harvesting was observed in most areas. Temperatures may have been warmer due to the lack of air circulation and may have been more stressful for some crops. Irrigation requirements may have also been increased to minimize stress. By early Tuesday evening, increased air movement was noted from the northeast side of the island. Trade winds returned to its normal breezy state by the end of the week. Overall, the warmer growing conditions and general lack of rainfall resulted in typical summer conditions such as increased insect pressure and the need for additional irrigation. Irrigation needs for some crops have become a concern for some farmers. Producers were also closely watching for increased wildlife feeding in their fields. A lack of rainfall also affected pasture conditions as most areas are drying out. Most pastures, however, were still able to provide some dry feed.

### Honolulu County

Weather conditions were fair for good crop progress on Oahu during the week. Days were mostly sunny and dry with high temperatures, high humidity, light easterly winds, and volcanic haze early in the

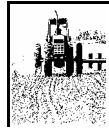
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week. A change in wind direction to a more favorable trade pattern, due to the presence of a high pressure system north of the state, brought more favorable weather conditions for crops at the end of the week. Windward and central crop growing areas experienced mostly dry days with passing, light to moderate showers at weeks' end. Leeward crop growing areas remained dry for most of the week with heavy irrigation. Temperatures were moderate to high with light to moderate winds. Most fruit and vine crops made fair to good progress with the high temperatures and sunny days allowing for improved fruit maturity and ripening. Leafy crops made fair to poor progress as the high temperatures and humidity were not conducive for good progress. Spraying for insect infestation and control of diseases were on regular schedules.

### **Kauai County**

Weather conditions were fair to good for crop progress during the week. Variable weather prevailed over the island as early in the week light easterly winds, high humidity, and hazy skies were cleared away with the return of the trade winds at mid-week. A high pressure ridge north of the state brought moderate to brisk trade winds, and showers to windward and higher elevations. Cooler temperatures returned to most crop growing areas. The mostly dry weather necessitated continued heavy irrigation levels for normal crop development throughout the island. Most orchard and fruit crops made fair to good progress. Sugar harvesting was halted early in the week (no burn days designated by the Department of Health) with regular activities resuming by late Wednesday. Spraying for insect and disease control was on regular schedules. Pastures remained in fair to poor condition due to mostly dry conditions and a sprinkle of rain at the end of the week.



## **Agricultural Highlights**

### **Fruits**

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#### **Banana**

Orchards in eastern sections of the island of Hawaii were in fair to good condition. Mostly dry conditions slowed crop progress as soil moisture was slowly depleted. Spraying was required to minimize Black Leaf Streak damage. Oahu orchards were in fair to good condition. Fields in windward locations were in fair condition maintaining light to moderate harvesting as the Banana Bunchy Top virus continued to keep production down. Leeward and central fields continued to make good progress, but were also slowed by light Banana Bunchy Top virus damage. Irrigation levels remained at moderate to heavy levels during the week due to the dry days. Fruit development and ripening continued to make good progress with the sunny days and warmer temperatures.

#### **Papaya**

On the Big Island, depleting soil moisture and sunny days kept orchards in fair condition. Crop progress of younger orchards was slowed by the hot and dry conditions. Spraying was active for insect, disease, and weed control. Orchards on Kauai continued to make fair to good progress during the week. Spraying to contain insect populations continued on a regular schedule and kept infestations manageable.

### **Vegetables**

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#### **Head Cabbage**

The Big Island's Waimea crop was in generally good condition. Harvesting of medium size heads was in progress. New plantings made good progress with heavy

irrigation. Insect and disease damage was generally light. Weeds were a problem in isolated fields. Maui's crop continued to progress well despite the warming growing conditions. Overall, the head cabbage crop was in fair to good condition. Insect pressure increased in growing areas and affected lower elevation fields more than the higher elevation fields. Increased irrigation was necessary to minimize stress and allow for continued steady growth. Insect damage was under control in most fields. Planting and harvesting activity was uninterrupted. On Oahu, mealy bugs, Ring Spot virus, and wild pigs were reportedly keeping production lower than anticipated.

#### **Dry Onions**

Maui's crop was in good condition. Weather conditions have been beneficial for the dry onion crop. Growth and development has been good. Average yields have improved mainly due to decreased losses to field defects and increased average bulb size. Active planting and harvesting is expected to continue at a steady rate.

### **Miscellaneous**

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#### **Coffee**

In the Kona Districts of the Big Island, coffee orchards had berries in the green stage of development. Coffee orchards on Kauai made fair progress with some fields not receiving irrigation due to low reservoir levels. Light passing showers at week's end provided little or no relief for the parched fields. ■

## 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	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5
	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 <sub>p</sub>	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.9 <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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.4 <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	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	57.3
	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	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.8
	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 <sub>p</sub>	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	42.9 <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>	4.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.6 <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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5
	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	0.1	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
<b>Island of Oahu</b>														
11. Kahuku	2007	2.9	1.4	4.2	0.9	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.6
	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.7
	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	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9
	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	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0 <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	2.4	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.1
	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	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.6
	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 <sub>p</sub>	4.6	4.1	2.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.9 <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 May 27, 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		
<b>Island of Hawaii</b>					<i>Inches</i>				
1. Kamuela (HI86)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	7.45
2. Kealakekua (HI84)	0.00	1.03	0.01	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.31	1.43	10.90
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	27.36
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.13	0.00	0.01	0.35	57.29
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.76
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.15	0.12	0.08	0.00	0.37	42.86
<b>Island of Maui</b>									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.38	13.64
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.49
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	7.11
<b>Island of Oahu</b>									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.30	10.56
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.26	0.01	0.00	0.28	13.73
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.93
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.18	8.98
<b>Island of Kauai</b>									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.12	16.14
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.14	27.59
17. Omao (HI51)	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.53	0.03	0.01	0.61	14.89

<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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