



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: August 19, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Downgraded Hurricane Flossie Passes Safely to the South



Weather Review

Weather conditions were generally fair to good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, August 19. Hurricane Flossie, which was a category 4 storm at its peak, was downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it passed safely to the south of the Big Island on Tuesday. Because of its compactness, the storm did not pelt the Big Island with heavy showers. Hilo and its surrounding areas received the most rain, about 1.5 inches, while the rest of the island was relatively dry. Statewide, trade wind weather prevailed for most of the week. As a result, leeward areas were generally sunny and dry. Windward areas were partly cloudy and subjected to light trade wind induced showers. Daily temperatures, with a few exceptions, were below normal highs. Some water restrictions on the Big Island were downgraded to conservation status. A large brush fire on Oahu burned over 7,000 acres and damaged some crop and livestock operations. Brush fires also occurred on the Big Island during the week and resulted in some burnt pastures.

Hawaii County

Agricultural operations were aware of potentially wide swings in the

weather for the first half of the week. Hurricane and flash flood warnings were in effect as Hurricane Flossie approached from the south. Ka`u and South Kona braced for high winds and heavy rainfall, but neither materialized as Flossie weakened, stalled, and broke apart before reaching the island. Light rain with occasional downpours was normal fare for windward Hilo, Puna, and upper Ka`u through Wednesday. Cloud cover and isolated showers mixed with sunny periods and relatively light winds occurred over most of the rest of the island. Irrigation schedules were interrupted at times for Waimea farms as passing showers provided some moisture to normally irrigated fields. Non-irrigated farms and many pastured areas also benefited from isolated showers. But the sporadic nature of the rain left most leeward sections largely untouched and still suffering from drought conditions. On Thursday, normal trade wind patterns returned and leeward sections of Kohala and North Kona saw sunny, breezy weather. The latter half of the week saw the return of steady and sometimes gusty trade winds. Scattered windward showers in Hilo and Puna raised soil moisture, but most leeward gauges remained dry for the weekend. On August 10, the County of Hawaii's Department of

Water Supply downgraded water restrictions in upper Paauilo, Ahualoa, Waimea Town to Kawaihae, Makapala-Niulii, and the districts of North Kohala, South Kohala, and Hamakua to a conservation level. Any agricultural users on the County system in these areas were urged to irrigate only at night from 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Maui County

Weather conditions were fair to good for agriculture during the week. Days were a mixture of sunny to partly cloudy skies and light showers in windward areas. Flossie's passage generated cloudy skies and stronger-than-usual winds, but for the most part little rainfall. Most of the intermittent showers occurred in windward areas. Demand for irrigation water to maintain crops and livestock remained high for agricultural operations.

Honolulu County

A combination of mostly sunny skies and adequate water supplies were generally fair to good for agriculture during the week. A large brush fire in the Wailua area burned more than 7,000 acres before being contained late Sunday. There were reports of crop and livestock operations suffering fire-related damage.

Mark Hudson, Director
Steve Gunn, Deputy Director

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Kauai County

Weather conditions were generally favorable for agriculture during the week. Days were mostly sunny with occasional light showers. Lihue experienced record-tying high temperatures on Tuesday (August 14) and Sunday (August 19).



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Bananas

Soil moisture in windward orchards of the Big Island was good, and the crop was in generally good condition. Mostly sunny days and scattered showers during the week were beneficial for fruit development and orchard condition. Banana Bunchy Top virus incidences remained isolated in the Puna and Kona areas. Oahu orchards remained in fair to good condition.

Papayas

Big Island orchards were in fair to good condition. Soil moisture increased to more satisfactory levels in most orchards. Active flowering was occurring in most fields. Harvest and spray activities were active.

Vegetables

Chinese Cabbage

The Big Island's Waimea crop continued to make steady progress. Planting was heavy in selected fields, and irrigation was necessary due to windy conditions. Excessive weeds in some fields were noticed. Quality of harvested heads was fair to good.

Head Cabbage

The crop in the Waimea area of the Big Island was in generally good condition. Light insect damage was noticed on outer leaves. Irrigation

and light showers aided normal crop progress. The crop in Volcano made good progress. Maui's head cabbage crop continued to make steady progress. Insect pressure ranged from low to moderate with minimal damage in most fields. Steady planting and harvesting occurred during the week. Overall quality of the crop was good.

Sweet Corn

Plantings in windward areas of the Big Island made good progress. Planting and field preparations were aided by good weather conditions. Passing showers and warm temperatures helped boost growth in windward fields. Young plantings made steady progress.

Dry Onions

On Maui, planting was active as farmers prepared for the fall crop. Maintenance on young fields continued through the hot growing conditions. Older fields were being encouraged to develop larger bulb sizes. Overall average yields were lower than a year ago. The dry onion crop was in fair condition.

Tomatoes

Production from hydroponic greenhouses in the County of Hawaii was steady. Vines were in generally good condition. Fruit quality and yields were good. Puna greenhouse vines also made steady progress due to warmer temperatures and generally drier conditions.■

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	0.4	1.9	2.7	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5
	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	2.6 _p	3.3	3.7	7.3 _p	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.4 _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	1.1	3.0	3.8	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.1 _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	3.6	9.0	9.1	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	81.8
	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	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.2
	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 _p	2.7	6.3	7.6	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	63.3 _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	4.2	2.2	2.2	4.7	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.9 _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	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7
	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	0.5
	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	0.2	*	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.9
	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	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.7
	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	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0
	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	*	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1
	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	3.2 _p	1.9	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.3 _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	2.5	2.4	1.6	2.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.3
	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 _p	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.9 _p
	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	1.5	3.5	3.2	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.5 _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 August 19, 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)	0.05	0.48	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.08	0.07	0.72	13.53
2. Kealakekua (HI84)	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.34	0.00	0.00	1.89	26.42
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.31	1.07	0.56	0.07	0.01	0.31	0.01	2.34	38.07
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.27	1.03	1.37	0.34	0.28	0.30	0.13	3.72	81.77
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	11.24
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.47	1.40	0.98	0.06	0.09	0.36	0.12	3.48	63.31
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.42	0.06	0.23	0.05	0.00	0.15	0.05	0.96	23.94
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.71
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.53
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.86
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.16	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.21	13.67
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	18.01
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.06
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.00	0.01	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.13	11.30
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.07	0.19	21.33
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.14	0.14	0.05	0.20	0.01	0.05	0.03	0.62	35.91
17. Omao (HI51)	0.24	0.17	0.04	0.18	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.71	23.49

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