United States Department of Agriculture

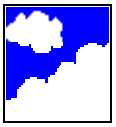
Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Week ending: February 3, 2008

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

Hawaii and Kauai Pelted By Heavy Rain



Weather Review

Weather conditions were fair to poor for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, February 3. The week started with a continuance of the previous week's winter trade wind pattern. As a result, showers were mainly confined to windward areas with a few being blown-over to the leeward sides of the islands. Cold air in the upper levels triggered a rare dusting of snow on the summit of Maui's Haleakala on Tuesday. Snow also fell on the Big Island's twin peaks of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea that extended below the 9,000-foot level. Residents in the Kona District of the Big Island reported a rare occurrence of pea to dime-sized hail. Rainfall increased significantly over the weekend starting with the Big Island. A combination of a low pressure system and its associated trough, very cold air at the mid-level of the atmosphere, and moisture carried in by the trade winds resulted in a torrent of rain for many windward areas of the Big Island. A record daily maximum of 10.82 inches was set for Hilo on Saturday. Kauai, on the other end of the State, was inundated with heavy showers on Sunday. The Hanalei and Wainiha bridges were both closed for a period due to raising river waters. Rainfall during the weekend was not as intense for the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Oahu. Overall, crops made fair to poor progress due to the wet conditions, cloudy skies, and cool temperatures. The recent showers, however, are expected to benefit pastures throughout the State.

Hawaii County

Heavy rains and cool temperatures resulted in poor to fair conditions for Big Island agriculture during the week. Most windward-facing districts recorded showers on a daily basis from the start of the week, but rainfall intensified significantly over the weekend due to unstable atmospheric conditions. Heavy showers pelted the windward side of the Big Island on Saturday and lasted into Sunday. Waiakea Uka, above the town of Hilo, recorded the most rainfall with a total of 22.54 inches during the two-day weekend. Other windward rain gauges located in agricultural areas that recorded notable 2-day totals were Glenwood (13.24 in.), Hakalau (11.02 in.), and Pahoa (8.51 in.). Shower activity was lighter in leeward areas, but some normally dry spots such as South Point (2.97 in.) also received a significant amount of rain during the weekend. The major vegetable-growing region of Waimea also received some showers (0.73 in.) over the weekend, but the wet conditions did not curtail most field activities. In addition to the heavy rains, the Big Island's twin peaks got a dusting of snow and there were reports of hail falling in parts of Kona earlier in the week.

Maui County

Weather conditions were generally fair for agriculture during the week. Most windward areas, and a few leeward areas, received daily showers. Rainfall increased over the weekend and parts of East Maui and Upcountry were drenched. The major farming area of Kula received lighter amounts of rain with the University of Hawaii's Kula Experiment Station recording 0.14 inches over the two-day weekend. Overall, crops made slow, steady progress and fieldwork was hindered by wet conditions Temperatures were relatively cool, and the summit of Haleakala got a rare dusting of snow on Tuesday. Icy conditions at the summit remained for several days.

Honolulu County

Weather conditions were fair to poor for crop development on Oahu during the week. A low pressure system brought unstable weather conditions mostly to the windward and parts of the central Oahu crop growing areas. Isolated heavy showers and overcast skies kept

Mark Hudson, Director
King Whetstone, Deputy Director

Ronald Nakamura, Research Statistician

fields wet and muddy. Field preparation and planting activities were also slowed by the wet conditions. Leeward and central Oahu crop-growing areas experienced mostly sunny and dry days with intermittent, sometimes heavy, showers reaching these areas with the blustery trade winds. Cooler night and early-morning temperatures kept insect populations at a relatively low level. Overall, fruit and vine crops made slow progress during the week. Leafy crops made fair to good progress.

Kauai County

Weather conditions for Kauai were fair to good for crops during most of the week. Moderate to heavy shower activity prevailed during most of the week caused by an upper level low pressure system lingering over the State. By the end of the week gusty trade winds and increased shower activity occurred in windward and interior areas of the island. Cool to cold temperatures and shower activity slowed crop development. Insect populations remained light. Fruit development and ripening were also slowed by the cool temperatures and cloudy skies. Raising water levels in the Hanalei Valley caused streams to overflow, flooding taro fields and the closure of bridges.

Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Bananas

On the Big Island, mostly cloudy and rain-filled days slowed growth and fruit development during the week. The reduced sunlight also kept temperatures on the cool side. Incidences of Banana Bunchy Top virus remain isolated in the Puna and Kona areas. Overall, orchards in eastern sections of Hawaii County were in generally good condition. Oahu's banana orchards were in fair condition. Fields in the leeward and central areas of Oahu made fair to good progress. Windward Oahu fields were in fair condition as cloudy conditions and cooler temperatures continued to slow crop progress and reduce yields. Kauai's orchards were in fair condition. Harvesting was anticipated to remain steady during the coming weeks. Stripped leaves, as well as cooler temperatures and overcast skies, continued to slow crop development and fruit ripening.

Papayas

Cool, wet conditions slowed orchard growth and fruit development on the Big Island. Orchards in the Puna district remained in fair to good condition. New seedlings established quickly with the high rainfall. Active flowering was evident in most fields, but the heavy rains made fieldwork difficult. Spraying will have to be maintained once the weather clears. Orchards on Oahu were in fair to poor condition. Spraying to control disease and insect infestations remained steady. Kauai's orchards made fair progress during the week. Acreage for harvest is relatively small, and overall pickings are forecast to remain light. Spraying for disease control was delayed because of inclement weather conditions.

Vegetables

Head Cabbage

Crop progress in Big Island fields slowed this week due to cool temperatures and damp conditions. The crop in Waimea was in fair condition with steady planting and harvesting. Quality of harvested heads was fair to good. The Volcano crop continued to struggle due to rainy weather and cloudy skies. Fieldwork was slowed by the high soil moisture. Maui's head cabbage crop continued to make low, but steady progress. Cool growing conditions benefited the crop by curbing insect pressure and allowing for quality head development. Some fields had increased incidences of rot probably due to excessive moisture. Overall, the head cabbage crop was in fair to good condition.

Sweet Corn

On the Big Island, fieldwork was interrupted by drenching rains during the week. Prior to this weekend's heavy showers, seedling growth and establishment was rapid.

Cucumbers

On Oahu, gusty winds adversely affected production and quality of fruits in exposed fields during the week. Pickings are expected to be light to moderate, but an increase is expected as new fields reach maturity.

Dry Onion

The dry onion crop continued to make slow progress on Maui. Growth and development was minimal. Some planting activity was noted during the week. Overall, Maui's dry onion crop was in marginally fair condition.

Other Crops

Coffee

High soil moisture in the Kona Districts of the Big Island may lead to a flush of flowers in early spring. Seasonal maintenance of orchards continued on selected farms. ■

Monthly Trend for Selected Stations

Comparison of 2008 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
								Inches						
Island of Hawaii														
1. Kamuela	2008	3.5	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8
	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. Kealakekua	2008	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
	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	2008	9.6	12.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.5
	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	2008	10.5	13.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.4
	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	2008	0.0p	0.0p	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0p
	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	2008	12.3	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.6
	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	2008	6.4p	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.2p
	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	2008	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6
	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	2008	0.2	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
	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	2008	1.3p	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5p
	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	2008	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7
	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	2008	3.8	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1
	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	2008	0.1	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
	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	2008	1.3p	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4p
	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	2008	0.0p	0.0p	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0p
	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	2008	5.2	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1
	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	2008	4.3	1.1p	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5p
	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 February 3, 2008

Daily, weekly, and year-to-date precipation 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		
					Inches				
Island of Hawaii									
1. Kamuela (HI86)	0.18	0.46	0.04	0.04	0.55	0.32	0.41	2.00	4.76
2. Kealakekua (HI84)	0.42	0.00	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.52	1.78
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.33	0.70	2.99	0.24	2.51	7.20	3.23	17.20	22.52
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.95	0.37	1.40	0.14	0.83	5.18	7.83	16.70	24.37
5. Pahala (HI85)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	0.00	0.00
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.34	0.37	2.22	1.08	0.80	2.02	6.49	13.32	21.59
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.20	0.22	1.24	1.81	0.38	0.41	1.01	5.27	8.16
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.09	0.18	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.46	1.60
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.09	0.18
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.02	0.07	0.25	0.15	0.10	0.08	0.06	0.73	1.51
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.53	0.07	0.65	1.65
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.07	0.81	0.97	0.11	0.21	0.39	0.76	3.32	5.13
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.10
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.00	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.42	1.36
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	0.00	0.00
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.00	0.54	0.46	0.36	0.68	2.38	0.91	5.33	9.13
17. Omao (HI51)	0.03	0.38	0.27	0.35	0.31	0.82	M	2.16	5.45

[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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