



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: February 4, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Passing Cold Front Generates Widely Variable Weather



Weather Review

Widely variable weather conditions were poor to fair for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, February 4. Strong southwesterly winds prevailed early in the week as an approaching cold front kept a high pressure ridge well south of the State. The National Weather Service issued a wind advisory as gusts were in the 50 mph range. The blustery winds bruised fruits and shredded leaves on orchard crops such as bananas and papayas. There were reports of some toppled trees in areas exposed to the strongest gusts. Vegetables crops fared better. Spray programs were suspended in many areas due to the winds. Certain types of irrigation were hampered by the winds while levels were increased in others to offset the drying effects of the wind. Crops were also hampered by a band of pre-frontal clouds that diminished sunlight and produced light-to-moderate showers. The cold front passed through the State on Thursday bringing additional light to moderate showers to many areas. By Friday, the front cleared the State, and cool northwest winds dipped overnight temperatures into the 50s; coldest of this winter season so far. Mostly sunny days over the weekend helped wind-

affected crops to begin their recovery.

showers caused minor flooding on Wednesday.

Hawaii County

The Big Island was battered by strong winds and unstable weather during the week. Strong southwest winds fell tree branches over power lines which caused blackouts in some areas. Young papaya trees in the lower Puna district were toppled by the gusty winds. Except for a few broken branches, macadamia nut orchards did not sustain major damages. Rain associated with the front drenched the normally dry leeward sections of the island on Wednesday and Thursday. Districts from North Kona to North Kohala received heavy showers on Thursday. In Waimea, strong winds did little damage to vegetable crops. Heavy showers on Thursday, however, caused minor flooding. Dry and windy conditions, prior to the heavy showers, fanned a range fire that blackened approximately 2,700 acres in the upper South Kohala district. Unlike the other districts, Hilo had sunny days and light winds. Cloudy skies and light showers returned during the later part of the week. Planting, field preparation, and other farming chores were active. The Puna and Ka'u districts experienced gusty winds throughout most of the work week. The Volcano area was mostly cloudy and wet. Heavy

Maui County

Weather conditions were challenging for many sectors of agriculture during the week. Most of the islands in the County were affected by strong, persistent Kona winds. There were numerous reports of electrical outages in varying locations of the county. Winds dislodged materials from structures and broke tree branches causing very hazardous outdoor conditions. Winds were recorded at 20 to 30 mph with gusts exceeding 40 mph. Several roads were temporarily closed due to debris preventing passage. The winds affected many crops and were most damaging to the south-facing areas. Vine crops were especially susceptible to the strong winds and damage was reported, but recovery was uncertain. The winds did gradually taper off by the end of the week and by Friday changed to the northwesterly direction. The passing front brought light rain showers that affected most areas of the island late Thursday evening through Friday. The weekend proved to be fair with increased periods of clear skies and cool overnight temperatures.

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Honolulu County

Weather conditions were poor to fair for crop progress on Oahu for the week. A passing cold front over the island chain brought blustery southwest winds, isolated heavy rainfall, and partly overcast conditions for most of the week. The windward sector of the island received the brunt of the gusty winds as it accelerated down the mountain slopes and damaged orchard and vine crops in its path. Leeward and central Oahu crop growing areas experienced isolated wind gusts and damage to leafy and fruit crops in exposed areas. Temperatures were moderate to high with elevated humidity levels for most of the week. Weather conditions were calmer by the end of the week as high pressure north of the State brought a northwesterly wind, low nighttime temperatures, and clear skies. Irrigation was at a moderate level. Most orchard crops made poor to fair progress during the week. Leafy crops made fair progress with some recovery by the weekend. Spraying for insect infestation and control of diseases were interrupted and delayed until the end of the week when calmer, drier weather conditions returned.

Kauai County

Weather conditions for Kauai were fair to poor for crop progress for the week. Strong southwest winds blew over the island early in the week followed by a lull with another bout of gusty winds. A passing cold front brought moderate to heavy rainfall in many crop growing areas. Temperatures were moderate to high during the days with high humidity. Orchard and field crops made fair to poor progress with the gusty winds causing felled trees laden with fruits. Leaf stripping was moderate to heavy in exposed fields. Leafy vegetables and other cool weather crops made fair progress. Spraying for insect and

disease control was halted with the brisk winds.



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Banana

Sunny days in East Hawaii aided orchard growth. Leaf stripping was noticed in fields exposed to the strong southerly winds. Showers later in the week provided sufficient moisture. Black leaf streak disease incidences are prevalent in isolated fields. Orchards on Kauai were in fair to good condition with wind damage to leaves in exposed fields. Harvesting is expected to be slightly lower in the coming weeks.

Papaya

On the Big Island, strong southerly winds knocked down trees in the upper Pohoiki and lower Kapoho fields. Damages were not too extensive and mainly limited to a few of the younger trees, with shallow root system, that were either knocked down or were bent due to the strong winds. Accompanying showers provided good moisture to orchards. Spraying and other field work were temporarily halted due to the adverse weather conditions. Orchards on Kauai were in fair to poor condition. Gusty winds toppled tree tops with heavy fruit columns in some fields. New plantings made fair progress. Spraying to contain insect infestation was interrupted by the gusty winds.

Vegetables

Head Cabbage

The Big Island's Waimea crop was in generally good condition. Strong winds and heavy showers slowed crop progress during the week. Disease and insect damage were generally light. New plantings made steady progress. The Volcano crop

was in fair condition. The Maui crop was in generally fair condition. Strong winds did not have any significant detrimental affect on the crop. Overall growing conditions during the past several weeks have not allowed the heads to develop ideally; reports indicate a slightly smaller size and lighter than usual weight. Insect pressure was present and some fields were reported to have higher pressure than others. Current spraying programs have been helpful in controlling the insect population and minimizing damage. On Oahu, new fields were in good condition. Insect infestation was light and head quality was good.

Dry Onions

On Maui, strong winds had a detrimental effect on the dry onion crop. Some older fields were affected by strong winds damaging leaves that could affect continued development. Younger fields seemed to have been able to tolerate the winds. The windy weather may have also hampered some field activities necessary to support growth and development of maturing fields. Overcast skies and light rainfall in the major growing area late in the week may have also caused additional concern for growers.

Miscellaneous

Ginger Root

Active harvest was in progress in the South Hilo area of the Big Island. Quality and yields were generally good. Growers were clearing and preparing their fields for next season's plantings.

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	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1
	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	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6
	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	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.3
	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	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.5
	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	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7
	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	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.1
	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	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6
	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	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9
	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	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
	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	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
	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	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4
	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	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
	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	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3
	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	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7
	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	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.7
	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	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5
	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	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0 _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 February 4, 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)	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.06	2.55	0.11	0.00	2.76	4.10
2. Kealahou (HI84)	0.01	0.02	0.76	0.53	0.95	0.00	0.00	2.27	3.60
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.10	0.00	0.58	7.29
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.01	0.00	0.26	18.47
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.12	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.19	1.71
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.10	0.73	0.07	0.00	0.92	13.09
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.34	1.60
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.22	0.03	1.13	0.39	0.02	0.00	1.79	1.91
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.04	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.25
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.26	0.19	0.00	0.20	0.21	0.01	0.00	0.87	0.94
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.05	0.43	0.02	0.00	0.43	0.01	0.00	0.94	3.36
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.64	0.92	0.14	0.09	0.59	0.00	0.00	2.38	5.02
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.01	0.88	0.08	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	1.14	2.34
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.17	0.91	0.15	0.09	0.31	0.00	0.00	1.63	2.65
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.96	0.60	0.00	0.01	1.62	4.72
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.00	0.52	0.03	1.86	0.77	0.00	0.00	3.18	7.50
17. Omao (HI51)	0.02	0.40	0.12	0.03	0.12	0.01	0.00	0.70	2.96

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