United States Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Week ending: March 4, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture
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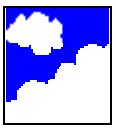
Weather Conditions Fair to Good for Agriculture



Weather Review

Weather conditions were fair to good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, March 4. A moderately strong high-pressure system to the northeast of the island continued to generate gusty trade winds for most of the week. The trades brought in almost daily showers to windward areas of the islands. Most of these showers were light, but an upper-level trough of low pressure resulted in some heavy showers for the southern end of the State on Tuesday. The windward area of the Big Island bore the brunt of the showers as the National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning for the county. Many areas in the South Hilo and Puna districts received over 2 inches of rain over a 24-hour period. Mauna Kea, the State's highest peak, received a thin layer of snow above the 13,000-foot level. The trade winds slackened as the week progressed and days became partly cloudy to mostly sunny. Overall, most crops made fair to good progress during the week.

Hawaii County

Wet and soggy conditions dominated the weather on the windward side of Hawaii Island during the first half of the week. Rainfall was periodically very heavy in locations from Volcano to North Kohala along the eastern coast as low and heavy clouds built along the slopes. A flash flood watch was in effect late Tuesday in Hilo and surrounding areas. Occasional thunder and lightening passed through Puna and Hilo on Monday and Tuesday. The heavy rain hampered field work for farmers and in the Hilo and Puna districts and caused sloping fields to washout and erode more than normal. Some fields will need to be reworked before planting resumes. Ka`u generally received little rain but was cloud covered for most of the week with showers against the slopes. South Kona was cloudy early in the week that brought some light showers. On Tuesday and Wednesday the rains were heavier and more widespread in the district. North Kona and leeward Kohala areas remained fairly dry with some high scattered clouds and passing showers in upper elevations. Windward Kohala was fairly wet in the upper regions. Puukapu farms did not need as much irrigation as showers kept soil moisture high. Clouds tended to dissipate over Lalamilo, and misty conditions were not enough to alleviate irrigation needs. On Friday, sunny conditions returned to most of the county as the low pressure area causing the wet weather was slowly pushed away.

Maui County

There were increased sunny skies over most sections of Maui County during the week. Periodic cloud cover in the central sections of the Maui continued, but with less frequency compared to the previous weeks. Windward and mountain areas also received decreased amounts of precipitation, but some areas continued to benefit from brief passing showers. The strong winds from the previous weeks have dissipated to occasional periods of strong gusts. Strong winds from last month have taken a toll on some crops, especially vine crops. Pastures in the windward areas were showing some benefits from the precipitation. Increasing day length was helping to promote growth and development for most crops.

Honolulu County

Weather conditions were good for crop progress on Oahu. Sunny and dry days with light showers mixed with light to moderate trade winds prevailed in most crop growing areas. Windward crop growing areas experienced mostly sunny days with light variable winds. Showers were generally light with moderate amount falling over the weekend. Leeward and central

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Oahu districts remained sunny and dry with very light rains at the upper elevations and light winds allowing for cooler evenings. Temperatures were moderate during the day with some beneficial cooling during the night and early morning hours. Most orchard crops made good progress during the week under increasing day length. Leafy crops also made good progress. Spraying for insect infestation and control of diseases were on schedule.

Kauai County

Weather conditions for Kauai were good for crop progress for the week. Trade wind showers fell over most crop growing areas throughout the week. Leeward crop growing areas welcomed the showers which slightly reduced irrigation needs. Windward districts and fields at the upper elevations received moderate to heavy rains during the week keeping temperatures low. Orchard and field crops made fair to good progress during the week. Leafy vegetables and other cool weather crops made good progress. Spraying for insect and disease control was on regular schedules.

Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Banana

Soil moisture in east Hawaii County orchards was very high, and the crop was in generally good condition. Wet conditions during the week slowed field activities. Banana Bunchy Top virus incidences remain isolated in the Puna and Kona areas. Replanting was occurring in selected fields. Oahu orchards were in fair to good condition. Fields in windward Oahu made fair to good progress in recovering from previous periods of gusty winds. Leeward and central Oahu fields remained in fair to good condition. Irrigation levels were moderate to heavy due to the sunnier and drier conditions. The Waimanalo Irrigation System continues at a 10-percent voluntary water conservation request. Fruit development and ripening continued to improve with the increasing day length and beneficial sunny skies. Orchards on Kauai were in fair to good condition. Crop progress remained slightly slowed due to the wind damage from the previous weeks.

Papaya

Big Island orchards were in fair to good condition. Soil moisture was very high. Sunny days, after a wet week, promoted active flowering and fruit development. Spraying was required to minimize disease incidences and for weed control. Orchards on Kauai were in fair to poor condition. A decrease in production is forecast in the coming weeks as tree losses from wind damage are expected to continue to reduce fruits for harvest. New plantings continued to make fair progress. Spraying to contain insect infestation was on schedule.

Vegetables

Head Cabbage

The crop in Waimea was in generally good condition. Irrigation kept crop progress normal. The crop in Volcano was in fair condition. Cooler, shorter days have slowed crop progress. Maui's head cabbage crop has generally faired well through the past couple of weeks. The strong winds did not appear to have had any detrimental effect on the crop. Insect pressure remained under control and damaged was minimized by close monitoring. The increasing day length is expected to help increase the rate of growth and development of the head cabbage crop and encourage uniform head size. New fields on Oahu were in good condition with fields in active harvest. Insect infestation remained under control and head quality was good.

Cucumbers

On Oahu, new plantings made fair to good progress during the week and were expected to come into harvest in a few weeks.

Sweet Corn

Plantings in east Hawaii County made good progress. Wet conditions boosted growth of young plants, but may have reduced the week's harvest. The return of the sunny, dry, and warmer weather allowed plants to make good development in central Oahu fields. Windward fields made fair to good progress have benefited from the passing rains.

Semi-head (*Manoa*) Lettuce

The sunny and dry weather and cool evening temperatures in leeward and central Oahu fields were good for good crop progress. Isolated incidences of light tip burn problems were expected to slightly reduce supplies. Insect infestation and damage were light and spraying to reduce the population was on regular schedules.

Dry Onions

On Maui, weather condition helped the growth and development of the dry onion crop. Extended daylight hours have been beneficial. Insect pressure reportedly increased in some fields, but was under control and did not seem to be affecting those fields. Older fields were still taking longer to reach maturity and growers were holding on to these fields a little longer. This is not unusual for this time of the year. Overall yields are expected to hold steady from the previous month, but yields have varied from field to field. Active planting was expected to continue through the month. Overall, the dry onion crop was in fair condition.

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
								Inches						
Island of Hawaii														
1. Kamuela	2007	1.4	3.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2
	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. Kealakekua	2007	2.1	2.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9
	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	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.6
	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	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.5
	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	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6
	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	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.7
	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	4.0p	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5p
	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	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
	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	*	0.0	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	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
	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	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9
	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	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9
	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	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
	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	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6
	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	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1
	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	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4
	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	2.8p	4.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5p
	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 March 4, 2007

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)	0.12	0.04	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.36	5.19
2. Kealakekua (HI84)	0.00	0.04	0.68	0.07	0.00	0.04	0.17	1.00	4.85
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	1.28	0.50	2.66	1.71	0.88	0.04	0.00	7.07	21.63
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.77	1.15	2.09	3.42	1.26	0.54	1.04	10.27	38.52
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.33	0.10	0.48	2.57
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.61	1.71	2.14	1.72	0.75	0.16	0.44	7.53	28.65
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.17	0.14	0.25	0.13	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.79	5.50
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	2.14
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.78
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.56	0.77	4.90
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.07	0.01	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.23	6.88
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	2.51
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	3.56
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.05	0.20	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.43	7.08
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.39	0.07	0.54	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.07	15.39
17. Omao (HI51)	0.22	0.08	0.42	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.80	7.45

[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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