



# Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

Week ending: May 20, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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## Trade Winds Replaced By Warm, Humid Days



### Weather Review

Weather conditions were fair to good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, May 20. The sometimes gusty trade winds that were blowing the past few weeks was replaced by mostly calm, warm days. A trough of low pressure to the north of the State pushed a high pressure ridge over the islands and results in a light winded, convective weather pattern to develop. As a result, most days were warm and humid. Convective showers produced some light to moderate afternoon showers in isolated sections. Clear nights allowed temperatures to cool overnight. Irrigated crops made mostly good progress. Some non-irrigated crops and pastures, particularly in the drier leeward areas, were showing signs of stress due to the dry weather.

### Hawaii County

The Big Island experienced stable weather during the week. Hilo and Puna districts had mostly cloudy skies, light winds, and sunny periods. The light showers kept soil moisture adequate. Farm operations were active during the week. The Hamakua District experienced frequent sunny periods and light winds. In Waimea, Lalamilo experienced light winds,

sunny days and mostly dry weather. Puukapu had sunny mornings and cloudy afternoon periods. Soil moisture was low and heavy irrigation was required in both areas. North Kohala was mostly sunny and dry. Lower pastures in Hawi and Kapaau were turning brown. Weather conditions in Kona were sunny in the mornings and cloudy in the afternoons. Upper central and south Kona sections received isolated, but light afternoon showers. More showers are needed to restore soil moisture to adequate levels. North Kona remained dry. Ka'u coastal sections were dry with very low moisture. Higher interior sections had cloudy afternoon skies with isolated light showers. The Volcano area had high cloud cover and very light, misty rain. More showers were needed as soil moisture was low.

### Maui County

Maui County continued to be mostly sunny and fair with some light early morning rain falling in some isolated windward-facing areas. The reduction in overall rainfall throughout the County has begun to dry out the general landscape in some areas. Low elevation sections along the leeward coast have mostly dry vegetation. Central sections of Maui also showed signs of drying out except for irrigated sugarcane fields. Trade winds have

helped to minimize stress from warm day time temperatures. The longer day length and reduce precipitation have generally required increased irrigation for most crops to maintain steady progress.

### Honolulu County

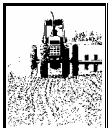
Weather conditions were fair to good for crop progress during the week. Days were mostly sunny and dry with high temperatures and humidity for most of the week. Isolated heavy showers fell in the Waianae crop growing area on Sunday night slowing field activities early in the week. However, dry conditions prior to the rains allowed fields to dry quickly and harvesting activities to resume. Windward and central Oahu crop growing areas experienced mostly dry days with occasional light showers. Temperatures were moderate to high with light to variable winds. Heavy irrigation was necessary to ensure normal crop development. Most fruit and vine crops made fair to good progress with the trade winds keeping fields dry and in good condition. Orchard crops made fair to good progress during the week. Leafy crops made fair progress as the high temperatures caused an increase in insect populations. Spraying for insect infestation and control of diseases were on regular schedules.

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### Kauai County

Weather conditions for Kauai were fair to good for crop progress during the week. Warm temperatures, light winds, high humidity, and rains at the upper elevations prevailed over most of the island. An approaching high pressure system caused winds to be light and variable with increasing intensity by the weekend. Weeks of dry weather in the crop growing areas made heavy irrigation necessary to ensure continued normal crop development. Most orchard and fruit crops made good progress with the current weather conditions. Spraying for insect and disease control was on a regular schedule. Pastures, especially in the leeward section of the island, were dry with fair to poor grass growth. Windward pastures were in fair condition with light showers during the month kept grass growth and old feed available.



## Agricultural Highlights

### Fruits

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#### Banana

Banana orchards in windward sections of Hawaii Island continued to make good progress. Soil moisture was adequate. Sunny and warm conditions benefited fruit and orchard growth. Disease incidences have remained stable. Banana Bunchy Top incidences remain isolated in the Puna and Kona areas. Oahu orchards were in fair to good condition. Fields in windward Oahu were in fair condition with light to moderate harvesting as Banana Bunchy Top virus continued to keep production down. Leeward and central Oahu fields continued to make fair to good progress and were also slowed by Banana Bunchy Top damage. Irrigation levels remained at moderate to heavy levels during the week due to the relatively dry

weather. Fruit development and ripening continued to make good progress with the sunny days and warmer temperatures. Kauai's orchards were in fair to good condition.

#### Papaya

Orchards in the lower Puna area of the Big Island were in good to fair condition. Light showers helped to provide some soil moisture. However, more showers are needed. In the lower Kapoho area, large orchards had trees that were too tall for commercial harvest. Recently planted orchards made slower progress due to the dry conditions. Spraying for weed and disease control was on-going. Orchards on Kauai continued to make fair to good progress during the week. Spraying to contain insect populations continued on a regular schedule and was keeping infestations manageable.

## Vegetables

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#### Head Cabbage

The Big Island's Waimea crop was in generally good to fair condition. Medium-sized heads were harvested. Hot and dry conditions required heavy irrigation. Insect and disease damage was generally light. The Maui head cabbage crop continued to make steady progress. Warmer growing conditions have increased crop growth and development, but it has also encouraged increased insect pressure in the major growing areas. Borders of fields were drying out and insects and wildlife were feeding on irrigated fields. So far, losses have been kept to a minimum, but it may become increasingly more difficult to control with the warmer months approaching. Overall, Maui's head cabbage crop was in fair condition. On Oahu, new plants were in good condition. Insect infestations were at light levels and mostly under control.

#### Sweet Corn

The Big Island's young crop made steady progress. Sunny days and adequate soil moisture benefited crop growth. On Oahu, beneficial weather conditions allowed plants to make good progress and boost market supplies from central Oahu fields. Windward fields made good progress during the week and are expected to continue with moderate harvesting.

#### Dry Onions

Maui's dry onion crop continued to benefit from the current weather conditions. The long days and warm temperatures encouraged good growth and development especially for maturing fields. Yields were good and are expected to be steady for several weeks. The lack of rainfall has reduced the occurrence of quality defects in the field. Developing fields were showing good steady progress. Overall, the dry onion crop was in fair to good condition.

## Miscellaneous

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#### Ginger Root

Plantings in the eastern sections of the island of Hawaii made steady progress. Sunny and warm days benefited crop growth. Light showers provided just enough moisture to sustain growth. ■

## 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	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.4
	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>	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5 <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	27.3 <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	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	56.9
	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>	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	42.5 <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	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.3 <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	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.3
	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	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5
	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	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.8 <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	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
	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	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.5
	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 <sub>p</sub>	4.6	4.1	2.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3 <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 20, 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		
<i>Inches</i>									
<b>Island of Hawaii</b>									
1. Kamuela (HI86)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.41
2. Kealakekua (HI84)	0.73	0.21	0.09	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.26	1.40	9.47
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.03	27.34
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.09	0.04	0.23	0.00	0.31	0.05	0.00	0.72	56.94
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.02	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.19	7.76
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.02	0.08	0.13	0.00	0.43	42.49
<b>Island of Maui</b>									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.67	0.04	0.00	0.79	13.26
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.23	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.09
<b>Island of Oahu</b>									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.67	0.00	0.69	10.26
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.04	13.45
13. Waianae (HI17)	1.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.06	1.17	6.93
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.80
<b>Island of Kauai</b>									
15. Anahola (HI48)	1.75	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.05	1.85	16.02
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.48	27.45
17. Omao (HI51)	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.16	14.28

<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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