



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: July 8, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Trade Winds Bring Some Showers, But Not Enough



Weather Review

Weather conditions were fair to good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, July 8. A high pressure area firmly anchored north of the State generated trade wind weather conditions all week. As a result, windward-facing areas of all islands were partly cloudy on most days. Rain-bearing clouds, brought in by the trade winds, produced light to moderate showers in windward areas which helped to replenish soil moisture. The additional rainfall, however, was not enough to relieve weeks of dry weather. Leeward areas were generally dry except for some showers drifting over from the windward side of the island. Daytime temperatures averaged in the mid to upper 80s in leeward areas and were a couple of degrees warmer than windward areas. Non-irrigated crops made poor to fair progress depending on the amount of rainfall received. Irrigated crops made mostly good progress. Moderate to occasionally strong trade winds hindered spraying for control of pests, and an increase in damage was noticed in some fields.

Hawaii County

Weather conditions were mainly fair for crops across the island. Windward sections received some

light, passing showers mostly in the upper elevations. Lower regions were sunny with partial clouds on most days. Light winds allowed temperatures and humidity to rise in the Hilo and Puna districts. Non-irrigated crops and orchards continued to have adequate soil moisture and steady growth. The Hamakua coast received only trace amounts of rain and remained drier than normal. Areas exposed to trade winds and coastal regions were in need of rain. Farms in Puukapu and Lalamilo areas of Waimea enjoyed mostly sunny conditions. Warm temperatures and variable winds required most farmers to continue normal irrigation practices. Crop progress was generally good. Most regions of Kohala and North Kona were abnormally dry. Long sunny days continued to lower soil moisture in pastures and open ranges. A massive brush fire broke out in open range land south of Waikoloa early in the week. Over nine thousand acres burned before the wildfire was brought under control. Three other smaller fires also broke out in Kohala pastures during the week. South Kona received typical cloudy afternoons against the slopes and some light passing showers that benefited orchards. Warm conditions prevailed along the western coast of the island as well as in most of the Ka`u district.

Some cloud cover in upper elevations brought trace amounts of rain but overall the Ka`u area remained drier than normal.

Maui County

Weather conditions were fair for agriculture during the week. Windward showers along the coastline are anticipated to help pastures as well as the overall landscape. Upper elevation sections of the West Maui Mountains also received some beneficial showers. Light, passing showers moved through the central part of Maui Island, but are not expected to significantly benefit agriculture. The southern sections of Maui were dry.

Honolulu County

Weather conditions were fair for crop development. Days were sunny and dry with warm temperatures. Moderate to strong trade winds persisted as a high pressure system hovered north of the state. Windward Oahu crop growing areas experienced dry and sunny days with intermittent cloudiness and light scattered showers especially in the night and early morning hours. The continued dry weather conditions caused the Waimanalo irrigation system level to drop to 24.25 feet, and a mandatory 20-percent cutback in water use remained in place.

Mark Hudson, Director
Steve Gunn, Deputy Director

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Leeward and central Oahu crop growing areas remained very dry during the week. Sunny days and blustery winds kept fields very dry. Despite heavy irrigation, high temperatures have slowed crop development of some leafy and fruit crops. Most fruit and vine crops made fair progress. Spraying for insect infestation was difficult during the week due to the windy conditions. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was high during the week.

Kauai County

Weather conditions for Kauai were good to fair for crop progress as another week of sunny and dry weather with brisk trade winds and light windward showers prevailed. Favorable rains in the upper elevations helped to replenish most reservoirs and maintain fair to good flow in irrigation ditches. Irrigation levels in most areas remained heavy. Temperatures were moderate to high with the breezy trade winds allowing for some cooling. Pastures on the island remained mostly dry and were in fair to poor condition. Orchards and fruit crops were in good to fair condition with heavy irrigation. Leafy crops made fair progress and were slowed by the high temperatures. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was increasing. Spraying for control was slowed because of the continued gusty winds.



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Bananas

Orchards in windward areas of Hawaii island were in fair to good condition. Warm temperatures and good soil moisture were ideal for growth. Field activities remained normal. Banana Bunchy Top virus incidences remained isolated in the

Puna and Kona areas. Oahu orchards were in fair to good condition. Fields in windward Oahu remained in fair condition. Leeward and central area fields were experiencing a seasonal upswing. Irrigation levels were at heavy levels during the week because of the dry weather. Kauai's orchards were in good to fair condition.

Papayas

Orchards in the Puna area of the Big Island were in fair to good condition. Warm, humid conditions with abundant sun boost growth in most orchards. Soil moisture was adequate, and field activities continued on a normal schedule. New plantings made good progress. On Oahu, fruit development and ripening were good with the increased day length and sunny and dry weather conditions. Mealy bugs were mostly under control while Ring Spot virus kept lowered production in some fields. Orchards on Kauai continued to make fair to good progress during the week. Spraying to contain the insect population was stepped up during periods of calm weather to contain an increase in infestation.

Vegetables

Chinese Cabbage

The Big Island's Waimea crop continued to make steady progress. Irrigation was regular and heavy to maintain crop progress in the Puukapu and Lalamilo farm lots. Conditions in the Volcano area were ideal for crop development.

Head Cabbage

The Big Island's Waimea crop was in generally good condition. Heavy irrigation was required to keep crop progress normal. The Volcano crop improved as soil moisture was adequate and days were sunny. On Oahu, some fields were abandoned

to control the increasing pressure from the diamondback moth infestation.

Semi-head (Manoa) Lettuce

On Oahu, planting remained steady, however, crop progress was slowed by the high temperatures and drying winds. Moderate to heavy insect infestation and some disease damage continued to lower yields. Spraying to control insects remained active. Planting on Kauai remained light but steady with fair plant progress.

Dry Onions

Maui's crop was being challenged by continuous dry and warm conditions. The lack of rainfall has eliminated the threat of rot, but the overall dry conditions were detrimental for crop progress. Bulb size has decreased. The overall crop was in fair condition.

Sweet Corn

Fields in the windward areas of the Big Island benefited from passing showers and sunny conditions. Seedling growth was steady and rapid. Planting and harvesting were steady. On Oahu, favorable weather conditions allowed the plants to make good progress with heavy supplies available from central Oahu fields. There were some reports of light worm damage during the week. Isolated windward fields experienced some growing problems which were expected to slow harvesting.

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	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.1
	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	2.5	1.7	1.6 _p	3.3	3.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.6 _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	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.7 _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	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	67.9
	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	0.6	0.1	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3
	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 _p	2.7	6.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.8 _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	4.1	2.2	2.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.8 _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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6
	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	2007	0.2	*	0.2	0.1	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	0.2	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2
	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	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0
	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	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
	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	0.0	0.0	7.0
	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	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0 _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	2.4	2.4	1.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.4
	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	0.7 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.1 _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	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.3 _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 July 8, 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)	0.01	0.29	0.09	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.65	10.11
2. Kealahou (HI84)	0.09	0.01	0.07	0.01	0.49	0.13	0.00	0.80	15.61
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.08	0.14	0.32	30.74
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.49	0.35	0.09	0.13	0.01	0.03	0.22	1.32	67.91
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	8.25
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.43	0.11	0.06	0.24	0.29	0.18	0.05	1.36	50.79
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.08	0.04	0.06	0.12	0.18	0.01	0.00	0.49	16.80
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.58
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.21
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.01	0.12	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.28	11.98
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.27	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	16.04
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.01
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.26	10.00
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.14	0.17	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.02	0.49	18.41
16. Hanalei (HI45)	M	0.47	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.65	31.13
17. Omao (HI51)	0.13	0.31	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.12	0.03	0.73	19.26

^{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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