



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: August 5, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Summer Trade Wind Weather Continues



Weather Review

Weather conditions were mostly fair to good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, August 5. A summer trade wind pattern continued to generate mostly sunny skies and dry conditions in leeward areas. Windward areas received the bulk of the light to moderate showers carried-in by the trade wind flow. August is typically the warmest month in Hawaii and this year is no exception as temperatures reached the 90-degree mark early in the week. Irrigated crops made fair to good progress during the week. Non-irrigated crops made variable progress depending on exposure to rainfall. On July 27, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) designated all counties in Hawaii a natural disaster area due to the prolonged dry weather. All qualified farm operators in the designated area are eligible for low interest Emergency Loans from the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FAS).

Hawaii County

All areas of Hawaii County were relatively dry during the first half of the week. Light winds and partly cloudy skies brought a little moisture to windward and upper elevations early in the week.

Temperatures were warm with a record high in Hilo on Wednesday. Thursday night brought some ground soaking precipitation to much of Puna and Hilo. Soil moisture was replenished in fruit orchards and non-irrigated fields. Hilo recorded a new daily maximum rainfall total for August 3rd at 1.78 inches. Ka'u received some of this moisture, but to a lesser extent. Hamakua also received some light showers. Overall, precipitation remained well below normal in every part of the island and drought conditions existed in most north and leeward areas. Steady winds in North Kona, Kohala, and Hamakua had a drying effect and soil moisture was extremely low in many areas. South Kona orchards and pastures benefited from regular cloud build-up and scattered afternoon showers against the slopes. Crops in irrigated fields continued to make good progress, but pastures and non-irrigated fields made little or no progress. Agricultural users were asked to keep usage to a minimum. Stock water supplies were mostly adequate. However, continued drought conditions prompted an emergency declaration by the USDA.

Maui County

Weather conditions remained sunny and warm throughout most of Maui

County for the week. Generally, most crops were able to make slow and steady progress. The summer weather has been very cooperative for various field activities such as harvesting and planting. At times, however, periods of persistent winds hampered spraying and caused dust from harvested fields to be a nuisance for nearby roadways. There was an increase in passing showers noted mainly in sections facing the trade winds. The central area of Maui experienced increased cloud cover and some rainfall late in the week. The lack of rainfall for most areas has taken a toll on pastures. Most pastures have dried out and may only provide dry forage. Some upper elevation pastures may have benefited from periodic cloud cover and light passing precipitation. These pastures continued to show some available green forage. The central and leeward area pastures were dwindling in feed supply. Irrigation water continued to be available throughout the County, but agriculture producers have been encouraged to use water judiciously. Non-agricultural water users in the Upcountry areas are still under a water use restriction. On July 27, 2007 Maui County was designated a natural disaster area by the USDA due to losses caused by drought that began on January 1, 2007.

Mark Hudson, Director
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Honolulu County

Weather conditions were fair to good for crop development on Oahu during the week. Windward crop-growing areas experienced mostly sunny days with light to moderate showers brought in with the trade winds. Leeward sectors of the island remained hot and dry with the light to moderate trade winds and little or no rains during the week. The Waimanalo irrigation system level was reported at 20.25 feet with the mandatory 20 percent cutback in water remaining in place. Most fruit and vine crops made fair progress. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was high during the week and spraying for control was stepped up.

Kauai County

Weather conditions were fair to good for crop progress during the week. A high pressure system north of the state brought light to moderate winds and its associated showers to the windward and higher elevations. Days continued mostly sunny with intermittent cloudy conditions and early-morning and evening showers. Most leeward crop-growing areas remained fairly dry with harvesting and planting activities on-going. Irrigation levels were heavy for normal crop development. Temperatures were high during the week with little cooling at night. Orchards and fruit crops were in fair condition. Leafy crops also made fair progress due to the high temperatures. Increased pressure from insect infestation and damage was reported. Spraying for control was on regular schedule.



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Bananas

Orchards in windward areas of the Big Island were in fair to good condition. Operations remained normal, and harvesting was active. Soil moisture was raised to beneficial levels. The Banana Bunchy Top virus remained isolated in the Puna and Kona areas. Oahu orchards were in fair to good condition. Windward fields remained in fair condition maintaining light to moderate harvesting. Leeward and central Oahu fields were in active harvest with heavy supplies due to the seasonal trend. Irrigation remained at heavy levels during the week because of the dry weather. Fields dependent on reservoir water for irrigation have cutback because of water restrictions and conservation efforts. Kauai's orchards were in fair to good condition. Spraying for insect infestation was on a regular schedule.

Papayas

Orchards in the Puna area of the Big Island were in fair to good condition. Soil moisture was adequate. Overcast conditions with sunny periods were helping to establish young trees. Young orchards in the lower Puna area made good progress. On Oahu, fruit development and ripening were fair to good. Crop progress was slowed by high temperatures. Mealy bugs were mostly under control. The Ring Spot virus and wild pig damage kept harvesting lower levels in some fields. Orchards on Kauai continued to make fair to good progress during the week.

Vegetables

Head Cabbage

Hawaii County's Waimea crop was in fair to good condition. Light insect damage on outer leaves was noticed. Irrigation helped to keep crop progress about normal, but warm conditions have slowed the crop a little. The crop in Volcano was in fair to good condition. Maui's crop continued to make steady progress. Insect pressure in general was low to moderate and producers have continued to minimize damage. Wildlife feeding, mainly by birds, was still being noted along the edges of fields. Overall, the head cabbage crop was in fair condition.

Sweet Corn

Fields on the Big Island benefited from recent trade wind weather. Moderate rainfall improved soil moisture and benefited ear development. Planting and harvest activities were steady. Harvesting was active on Oahu. Isolated windward fields experienced some growing problems and lower than expected yields. Central Oahu crops were in good condition.

Cucumbers

Overall harvesting from most Oahu fields is expected to increase to heavy levels as new fields enter production. Pressure from insect infestation was at moderate levels.

Dry Onions

The crop on Maui continued to struggle through the hot growing conditions. Smaller average bulb size has affected the overall yield, although some fields have produced fairly good size bulbs. Overall, the dry onion crop was progressing as expected for this time of the year. The dry onion crop was currently in marginally fair to 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
<i>Inches</i>														
Island of Hawaii														
1. Kamuela	2007	1.4	3.7	1.3	0.8	0.4	1.9	2.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.6
	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	2.6 _p	3.3	3.7	7.3 _p	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.4 _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	3.8	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.3 _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	9.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	77.3
	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	2.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.0
	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	7.8 _p	2.7	6.3	7.6	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	58.7 _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	4.2	2.2	2.2	4.7	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.5 _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	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7
	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	0.5
	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	*	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.9
	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	1.4	4.2	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.4	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.2
	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	2.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.8
	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	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	1.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.2 _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	2.5	2.4	1.6	2.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.9
	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	3.9 _p	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.8 _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	3.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.2 _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 August 5, 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)	0.04	0.08	0.22	0.03	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.60	12.59
2. Kealahou (HI84)	M	0.01	0.31	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.00	1.33	24.36
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.37	0.05	0.00	0.03	1.23	0.00	0.00	1.68	35.34
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.10	0.31	0.13	0.01	1.53	0.01	0.03	2.12	77.33
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.08	0.81	10.99
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.24	0.16	0.05	0.00	1.51	0.03	0.11	2.10	58.65
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.03	1.18	0.38	0.07	0.36	0.58	0.03	2.63	22.54
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.05	0.63	6.71
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.52
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.37	7.86
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.07	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	13.17
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.01	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.14	17.77
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.04
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.00	0.04	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.28	11.17
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.00	0.78	0.05	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.94	20.87
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.03	0.29	0.09	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.15	0.65	34.76
17. Omao (HI51)	0.06	0.02	0.07	0.01	0.07	0.26	0.09	0.58	22.23

^{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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