



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: August 12, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Warm Temperatures with a Sprinkle of Rain



Weather Review

Weather conditions were fair to good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, August 12. Trade winds dominated island weather for the week. As a result, leeward areas remained mostly sunny and dry. Windward areas were partly cloudy to sunny and received some very light showers. Rainfall increased slightly in the second half of the week as the remnants of an old tropical disturbance brought showers to windward areas. Daytime temperatures were in the upper 80s which is normal for this time of the year. The daily high for Lihue (Kauai) of 88°, however, was tied on Sunday, August 12. Irrigated crops made mostly favorable progress. Non-irrigated crops continued to struggle due to the dry conditions. The relatively calm weather aided fieldwork and pest control activities.

Hawaii County

Fair weather conditions prevailed for the week. Dry skies in the first half of the week dominated as light variable winds brought little to no moisture to most gauges. Isolated and scattered showers dropped only trace amounts of moisture on various locations throughout the island. On Wednesday and Thursday, light winds allowed clouds to slowly build throughout the day against both windward and leeward slopes. However, no

substantial rainfall occurred and coastal regions remained mostly sunny. Cooler temperatures, however, helped to slow moisture loss. Lighter winds in the Waimea farm lot areas also helped soils retain moisture. Less wind helped keep spray activities on schedule and lessened dusty conditions. Heavy irrigation was still needed for normal crop progress. Ka`u received some welcomed showers with Kapapala Ranch recording the most rainfall on the island on both Wednesday and Thursday nights. Hilo and upper Puna regions also had some misty and moist conditions at midweek but with out much precipitation until the weekend. South Kona experienced cloudy conditions against the slopes and a few light scattered showers. Coastal areas were sunnier and drier. The North Kona, Kohala, and Hamakua areas were dry as well. Leeward pastures in these districts have little green forage and windward pastures continue to slowly decline in condition. Growth of new grass was very limited. Stock water supplies were generally adequate, but some water hauling activity continued in remote areas.

Maui County

Weather conditions were mostly sunny and fair during the week. Some very light precipitation was noted along windward-facing sections of Maui. Current weather conditions encouraged good plant growth and development for most crops. It has

also allowed for a notable amount of re-growth in pastures that received rainfall several weeks ago. Fieldwork was also active during this period of calm weather. Increased irrigation continued for most crops to help plants cope with the hot daytime temperatures. Fields in the upper elevations received occasional cloud cover that allowed for some relief from the stress of the daytime heat. The overall lack of rainfall remains a concern for water officials. The potential of brush fires are a concern as there is an abundant amount of dry brush along roadways in the lower elevation slopes of the south section of Maui.

Honolulu County

Weather conditions were fair to good for crop development during the week. Windward crop-growing areas experienced mostly sunny days with very light showers and light to moderate trade winds. Leeward sectors of the island remained sunny and dry with the light to moderate trade winds, high temperatures, and little to no rains in the crop growing areas. The lack of rains has caused the Waimanalo irrigation system level to decline to 17.00 feet as of August 10, 2007. The mandatory 20-percent cutback in water continued to be a necessary to forestall a water shortage and a consequent emergency. Most fruit and vine crops made fair progress. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was

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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 building north of the state continued to provide the island with the typical summer time conditions of sunny days, light to moderate trade winds, and a few windward showers in the night and early-morning hours. Most leeward crop-growing areas remained fairly dry with harvesting and planting activities on or ahead of schedule. Heavy irrigation levels remained necessary to ensure normal crop development. Temperatures were high during the week with some cooling provided by light passing showers 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 schedules. Pastures were in fair condition with low soil moisture. Supplies and heavy yellow sugarcane aphid damage was reported in isolated field. Cattle and calves were in fair to good condition with some supplemental feeding being reported.



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Bananas

Soil moisture in eastern areas of the Big Island was adequate but starting to decrease with the low rainfall. Warmer temperatures boosted growth and the crop was in fair to good condition. Banana Bunchy Top virus incidence 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 fields remained in active harvest with heavy supplies. Heavy irrigation, sunny days, and warm temperatures aided growth. Fields

dependent on reservoir water have cut back on irrigation due to water restrictions and conservation efforts. On Kauai, orchards were in fair to good condition. Spraying for insect infestation was on a regular schedule. Controlling the wild pig population, and damage to the crop, was a continuing challenge.

Papayas

Big Island orchards were in fair to good condition. Soil moisture improved slightly due to windward showers. Spray activity was steady in most orchards for insect and weed control. Young orchards were progressing well. Fruit development and ripening were fair to good on Oahu. High temperatures slowed crop progress. Mealy bugs were mostly under control while Ring Spot virus and wild pig damage kept harvesting lower in some fields. Orchards on Kauai continued to make fair to good progress during the week. Pickings were at moderate levels from several fields in harvest with some new fields in active harvest.

Vegetables

Head Cabbage

On the Big Island, irrigation ensured steady crop progress. The quality of harvested heads was fair to good. Overall, the crop was in fair to good condition. Maui's crop has been able to tolerate the hot growing conditions relatively well. Increased irrigation and periodic afternoon cloudiness has helped the crop to maintain steady progress and good quality heads. Planting continued to be steady. Insect pressure was present, but for most fields damage has been kept to a minimum with timely spraying. Overall, the crop was in fair to good condition.

Sweet Corn

Island wide moderate to heavy supplies were forecast to be available for the market place. On Oahu, isolated windward fields experienced some growing problems and lower-than-expected yields. Restricted water use slowed plantings in fields

dependent on reservoir sources for irrigation. Other fields with bird and wild pig damage also suffered lower-than-normal yields. Central Oahu crops were in fair to good condition with some corn ear worm pressure. Plantings in the windward area of the Big Island made good progress. Light showers kept soil moisture adequate, and the crop was in fair to good condition. Young plantings made steady progress.

Cucumbers

Overall pickings from Oahu were expected to increase to heavy levels as new fields come into active harvest. Pressure from insect infestation was at moderate levels.

Dry Onions

The crop on Maui continued to make slow but steady progress. Insect pressure remained relatively low and growers were been able control the effect of the feeding by insects in the field. Most fields have been affected by the hot temperatures, and this seems to limit bulb size. Some recently harvested fields had above-average yields mainly due to larger bulb size. Overall, the 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
<i>Inches</i>														
Island of Hawaii														
1. Kamuela	2007	1.4	3.7	1.3	0.8	0.4	1.9	2.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.8
	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	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.5 _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	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.7 _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	9.1	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	78.1
	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	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1
	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	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	59.8 _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	4.2	2.2	2.2	4.7	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.0 _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	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5
	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	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.9
	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	2.7	0.6	1.2	0.1	*	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1
	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	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.1
	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	6.5	4.5	1.3	2.8	3.9 _p	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.3 _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	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.8 _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 12, 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		
Island of Hawaii					<i>Inches</i>				
1. Kamuela (HI86)	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.11	0.22	12.81
2. Kealakekua (HI84)	0.11	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	24.53
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.01	0.39	35.73
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.07	0.01	0.10	0.00	0.02	0.23	0.29	0.72	78.05
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	11.13
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.02	0.08	0.22	0.01	0.00	0.40	0.45	1.18	59.83
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.12	0.11	0.17	0.44	22.98
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.71
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.86
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.14	0.29	13.46
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.13	17.90
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	7.06
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.17
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.03	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.27	21.14
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.05	0.09	0.08	0.20	0.53	35.29
17. Omao (HI51)	0.13	0.06	0.02	0.19	0.02	0.03	0.10	0.55	22.78

^{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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