



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: August 26, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Crops Make Fair To Good Progress



Weather Review

Weather conditions were generally beneficial for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, August 26. For most of the week, the State experienced a typical trade wind weather pattern. As a result, leeward areas were generally sunny and dry while windward sections of the islands were partly cloudy with mostly light showers carried in by the trade winds. Conditions became calm and humid as the weekend approached when an upper level trough of low pressure moved toward the State from the east. The warm temperatures and diminished winds generated moderate to heavy convective showers in the interior sections of some islands. The humid conditions also made fieldwork uncomfortable. Overall, crops made fair to good progress during the week. Some non-irrigated crops, mostly in leeward areas, were in fair to poor condition. Temperatures were at or below normal highs with the exception of Hilo where daily highs were set or tied on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

Hawaii County

Weather conditions started off with welcomed rainfall to many areas that were in need of moisture. Low

clouds riding on brisk trade winds covered much of the island on Monday and Tuesday. Eastern sections of Hilo, Puna, and Hamakua were nearly completely cloud covered and rainfall was recorded at almost every gauge in these areas. Orchards, pastures, and other non-irrigated crops benefited from the rise in soil moisture and made good progress. Ka'u and Kona sections also saw lots of cloudy weather on these days, but rainfall was more scattered and isolated. In Kohala, the windward areas were also cloud covered and received light rain. Leeward Kohala sections saw skies with scattered clouds and sunny periods. Greener pastures were more evident in Hamakua this week than in the last several weeks, but new grass growth was slow and limited. Pastures in lower elevations tended to receive most of the precipitation while soil moisture lessened above the cloud ceiling. The risk of brush fires was still high as most leeward sections were still very dry. From Wednesday, skies began to clear and winds lightened in most areas. Humidity and temperatures rose as the winds died down and crops generally benefited from the stable conditions. South Kona had typical afternoon clouds over the slopes. Waimea farms had periods of windy conditions and mostly sunny skies

which required irrigation schedules to be maintained through out the week. Volcano crops had adequate soil moisture and sunny conditions most of the week.

Maui County

Weather conditions remained fair to good for agriculture during the week. Days were mostly sunny and dry. Windward areas received some trade wind induced showers early in the week, but were mostly dry for the remaining days. Many leeward areas were sunny and dry all week. Warm temperatures and light winds made fieldwork uncomfortable over the weekend.

Honolulu County

Weather conditions were fair to good for crop development during the week. Windward crop growing areas experienced mostly sunny days with light showers and light to moderate trade winds diminishing by the weekend. Leeward sectors of the island remained sunny and dry with the light to moderate trade winds, high temperatures, overcast skies, and passing rain over the weekend. Interior sections of the island received some heavy convective showers Saturday afternoon. The showers were generally favorable for most crop growing areas. In the Poamoho area, where 2.52 inches fell over a 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m.

Mark Hudson, Director
Steve Gunn, Deputy Director

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Sunday, the rains were beneficial for good soil moisture and for overall irrigation of field crops and pastures. In Waianae, the welcomed rains provided some relief from the hot and dry weather. Most farm activities were not interrupted. The Waimanalo irrigation system level was pegged at 14.75 feet as of August 24. The mandatory 20-percent cutback in water use continued, and some farmers have slowed plantings resulting in reduced areas in production. Most fruit and vine crops in other areas of the island made fair to good progress. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was high during the week, and spraying for control was steady.

Kauai County

Weather conditions for Kauai were good for crop progress during the week. Sunny, dry days with high temperatures prevailed for most of the week. Trade winds were at light to moderate levels and tapered-off by the weekend as a trough moved toward the island chain. Most leeward crop growing areas remained fairly dry experiencing light passing rains on Friday. Harvesting and planting activities remained on schedule. Windward fields and those at the upper elevations were also dry with light showers during the week. Heavy irrigation levels remained necessary to ensure normal crop development. Orchards and fruit crops were in fair to good condition. Leafy crops made fair progress due to the high temperatures. Pressure from insect infestation and damage were at moderate levels. Spraying for control was on regular schedules.



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Bananas

Orchards in windward areas of the Big Island made good progress. Soil moisture was adequate. Warm sunny conditions provided a boost to growth of both young and established mats. Fields in windward Oahu remained in fair condition maintaining light to moderate harvesting. Leeward and central fields were in active harvest with heavy supplies. Irrigation was being maintained at a heavy rate. On Kauai, orchards were in fair to good condition. Spraying for insect infestation was on a regular schedule.

Papayas

Orchards in the lower areas of the Big Island's Puna District experienced ideal conditions for crop progress. Light showers mixed with mostly sunny skies and warm temperatures boosted growth of young orchards and kept flowering steady in mature orchards. Overall fruit development was good. On Oahu, fruit development and ripening were fair to good with the warm temperatures slowing crop progress. Mealy bugs were mostly under control while Ring Spot virus and wild pig damage lowered harvesting in some fields. Last week's wildfire on Oahu's North Shore caused some orchards to burn as well as damaging some irrigation systems. Orchards on Kauai continued to make fair to good progress during the week. Pickings were at moderate levels from several fields with some new fields boosting available supplies.

Vegetables

Chinese Cabbage

The Waimea crop on the Big Island was in fair to good condition. Dry conditions in Lalamilo required heavy irrigation for normal crop progress. Disease and insect damage were generally light. Warm

temperatures boosted weed populations in any fields.

Head Cabbage

Heavy irrigation was needed for Waimea farms on the Big Island. Spray schedules kept insect pressure down. Overall crop conditions were fair to good condition. The Volcano crop showed improvement due to added soil moisture and sunny skies.

Sweet Corn

Windward Oahu fields made good progress with the sunny and dry weather during the week. Harvesting was very active with increasing pickings. Restricted water use has slowed plantings and production in fields dependent on reservoirs. Central Oahu crops were in fair to good condition with light corn ear worm problems. Showers in eastern sections of Hawaii Island kept soil moisture adequate and improved germination rates. Sunny skies helped boost plant growth and ear development.

Other Crops

Coffee

Big Island orchards in the Puna and Kona Districts generally received adequate rainfall for cherry development and flowering. Ka'u orchards were drier but made fair progress. Kauai orchards were in good condition with harvesting slated to begin this coming week. Sunny days and drying winds have increased irrigation needs. Water supplies were adequate for current irrigation needs. Of growing concern are decreasing reservoir levels while rainfall has been too light to sustain or raise the levels. ■

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	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.7
	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	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.6 _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	3.8	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.1 _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	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	83.2
	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	41.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.3
	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	7.8 _p	2.7	6.3	7.6	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	64.5 _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	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.5 _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	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.1
	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	*	0.2	0.1	0.0	*	*	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
	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	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.1
	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
Island of Oahu														
11. Kahuku	2007	2.9	1.4	4.2	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.7
	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	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.3
	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	*	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5
	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	3.2 _p	1.9	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.4 _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	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.0
	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	1.3	2.8	3.9 _p	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.9 _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	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.3 _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 August 26, 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)	0.12	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.15	13.68
2. Kealahou (HI84)	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.18	26.60
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.77	0.16	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.06	39.13
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.70	0.27	0.31	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.02	1.44	83.21
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.06	0.01	0.00	40.07	51.31
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.71	0.33	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.16	64.47
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.26	0.16	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.52	24.46
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.01	0.65	1.35	8.06
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.56
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.23	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	8.10
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.06	13.73
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.18	0.24	18.25
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.34	0.39	7.45
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	11.35
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.08	0.48	0.07	0.70	22.03
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.07	0.00	0.25	0.10	0.04	0.17	0.31	0.94	36.85
17. Omao (HI51)	0.03	0.01	0.18	0.10	0.00	0.01	0.45	0.78	24.27

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