



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: September 2, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Typical Late-Summer Weather Fair To Good For Crops



Weather Review

Weather conditions enabled agricultural crops to make fair to good progress during the week ending Sunday, September 2. Trade winds were generally light at the start of the week as a low pressure slowly moved away from the State. With high pressure building to the north, trade winds gradually strengthen as the week progressed. Through Thursday, days were mostly sunny with light, scattered showers occurring mostly in the northern half of the State. The relatively calm weather benefited farming activities such as fieldwork, spraying, and irrigation. Shower activity increased on Friday evening as an upper-level trough of low pressure moved closer to the State. Showers were widespread as nearly every gage in the State recorded some rain. Some higher elevations, in the interior of most islands, recorded as much as 2 inches of rain. The boost in rainfall helped replenish soil moisture. Rain dependent crops, especially pastures, welcomed the late-summer rains. Overall, temperatures were near or above normal levels with Hilo experiencing record-tying temperatures on Wednesday and Thursday.

Hawaii County

Mark Hudson, Director
Steve Gunn, Deputy Director

Fairly uniform weather conditions prevailed during the first half of the week. Light, variable trade winds led to some cloud cover building-up and lingering over much of the island on Monday and Tuesday. Coastal areas were generally sunny with some scattered showers occurring over South Kona and Ka`u slopes. The light winds meant warm and humid conditions. Crop conditions generally benefited from the mild weather. Soil moisture in windward pastures and fields was mostly adequate for crop progress. Hamakua and Ka`u pastures saw some re-growth from recent showers, but new grass was limited. New growth was also evident in the Kohala areas, but grass supplies were also very low and new grass was limited. Waimea farms had a break from normally gusty trades. Some clouds lingered over the area on Tuesday, but little to no rain was produced. Irrigation schedules were in full swing as were all other field activities. Light winds allowed clouds to build over the slopes on most days throughout the week. On Thursday, several Kona gauges recorded fair amounts of rain. Pasture areas of Puuanahulu in North Kona benefited with nearly half an inch. Wet summer weather was typical for Kona regions, and showers have been scattered and fairly regular for the last several weeks.

Growth in non-irrigated Puna and Hilo orchards was boosted from the warm conditions that dominated the week.

Maui County

Weather conditions were mostly sunny and fair with intermittent periods of breezy trade winds. The cool breezes mainly occurred during the later part of the week and brought some passing showers over windward sections of the island. Some parts of the Upcountry area also received showers. The precipitation was welcomed especially for potential re-growth in pastures. Earlier in the week, there were periods of very little noticeable air movement which were conducive for certain field activities such as irrigation and spraying. Overall, the weather was typical for the late-summer months and enabled producers to accomplish their fieldwork.

Honolulu County

Weather conditions were fair to good for crop development. Windward crop-growing areas experienced mostly sunny days, light showers, and light to moderate trade winds mostly at the end of the week. Leeward districts remained sunny and dry with the light to moderate trade winds accompanied by warm temperatures. The Waimanalo irrigation system level

Ronald Nakamura, Research Statistician

was pegged at the 13.75-foot level as of August 30, 2007. A mandatory 20-percent cutback in water usage continued in place. Some farmers have slowed plantings and reduced areas in production. Most fruit and vine crops in other areas 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 were good for crop progress during the week. Sunny days, high temperatures, and light to moderate trade winds brought intermittent rainfall for much of the week. Most leeward crop growing areas remained fairly dry with planting and harvesting activities on schedule. Windward crop growing districts and fields at the upper elevations received some rains, but irrigation levels remained heavy. 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 were in fair to good condition. Growth in young orchards got a boost from the warm, sunny weather and adequate soil moisture. Banana Bunchy Top virus incidences remained isolated in the Puna and Kona areas. Oahu orchards were in fair to good condition. Fields in windward areas remained in fair condition. Leeward and central fields remained in active harvest with heavy supplies. Irrigation was heavy. Orchards on Kauai 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. Mostly sunny skies with scattered showers helped young trees. Papaya Ringspot Virus still plagued many fields, but spray activities were active in other fields and appeared to keep aphid populations in check. Harvesting on Oahu was reduced by fire-damaged fields that were previously in active harvest. In other areas, fruit development and ripening were fair to good with the high temperatures slowing crop progress. Mealy bugs were mostly under control while Ringspot virus and wild pig damage lowered yields in some fields. 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 in active harvest boosting available supplies.

Vegetables

Head Cabbage

The Big Island's Waimea crop was in fair to good condition. Light insect damage on outer leaves was noticed. Irrigation helped to keep crop progress normal, but warm conditions affected head quality. The crop in Volcano was in fair to good condition. Maui's crop continued to make steady progress. Hot growing conditions were proving to be challenging for the crop and producers who have been trying to minimize stress and damage by insects. Overall, insect pressure throughout the growing area continued to increase. However, insect damage varied by location. Most producers are expected to continue their steady plantings with some planning to increase plantings slightly to compensate for slower growth and lower yields in the months ahead.

Dry Onion

Maui's crop continued to make slow progress. Weather conditions made it difficult for the crop to achieve high yields and good quality. Some operations maintained good yields and relatively good quality, but most fields experienced lower yields mainly due to reduced bulb size. There was a slight improvement in the overall condition of the dry onion crop during the past couple of weeks. Planting for the fall harvest was active.

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 slowed plantings and production in fields dependent on reservoir sources for irrigation. Central Oahu crops were in fair to good condition with light corn ear worm problems. Corn fields in the windward areas of the Big Island benefited from the recent mixture of rain and the warm sunny conditions. Adequate soil moisture facilitated higher germination rates and improved ear development. Planting and harvest were steady. ■

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	1.8	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.9
	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	5.4	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.5 _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	5.7	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.8 _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	8.8	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	85.3
	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	41.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.3
	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	8.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	65.1 _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	4.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.5 _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	2.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.6
	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	*	*	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
	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	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.0
	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	2.1	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.6
	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	*	0.9	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0
	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	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7 _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	1.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.3
	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	3.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.8 _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	3.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.7 _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 September 2, 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)	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.09	0.13	0.01	0.01	0.26	13.94
2. Kealahou (HI84)	0.00	0.36	0.21	0.01	1.28	0.62	1.39	3.87	30.47
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.57	0.02	0.01	0.70	39.83
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.00	0.09	0.26	0.24	0.60	0.74	0.20	2.13	85.34
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.12	0.16	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.94	52.25
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.01	0.08	0.10	0.04	0.34	0.07	0.01	0.65	65.12
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.00	0.22	0.08	0.12	0.24	0.30	0.06	1.02	25.48
8. Kula (HI65)	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.51	8.57
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.11	0.67
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.10
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.28	14.01
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.09	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.24	0.01	0.38	18.63
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.53	7.98
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.23	0.03	0.32	11.67
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.10	0.03	0.26	22.29
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.35	0.17	0.25	0.19	0.97	37.82
17. Omao (HI51)	0.24	0.04	0.03	0.30	0.22	0.27	0.34	1.44	25.71

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