



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: October 14, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Gentle Trades Favorable For Agriculture



Weather Review

Weather conditions were mostly good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, October 14. Gentle trade winds produced calm conditions with limited showers falling in windward areas of the island chain. Temperatures continued to cool with the advent of winter. Hilo experienced a record low temperature for October 13 when the thermometer dipped to 63 degrees in the morning. This broke the old record of 64 degrees set in 1991. Statewide, most crops made favorable progress under the gentle weather conditions. Brief showers added to soil moisture, and moderate levels of irrigation helped to ensure normal crop progress in drier areas. Insect pressure was moderate with some areas recording fewer infestations.

Hawaii County

Weather conditions were fair to good for crop progress during the week. Hilo and surrounding areas received beneficial moisture from evening and morning showers early in the week. Showers tapered off during the later part of the week. Light breezes and sunny afternoons kept conditions hot and humid during the day. Non-irrigated orchards and pastures received adequate moisture. In Waimea,

Puukapu had sunny mornings, passing clouds, and light afternoon showers. Lalamilo was dry and windy. Soil moisture was low, but farmers irrigated heavily to ensure normal crop progress. Irrigation supplies were adequate at the present time. South Kohala remained very dry as witnessed by brown pastures extending from the coast to the slopes of Mauna Kea. Range fire warnings were posted due to the extremely dry vegetation. Coastal sections of Kona remained dry. South and central Kona experienced isolated light to moderate showers along the upper slopes. Skies were generally clear in the mornings and cloudy in the afternoons. The weather was very dry in the Ka'u district. Upper areas had afternoon cloudy skies. Volcano was clear with passing clouds and light showers.

Maui County

Cool, breezy trade winds continued to allow for periodic showers over much of the windward areas of the county. The central section of Maui had a combination of clear skies with occasional cloud cover. Brief, quick-moving showers occurred mainly during the early morning hours. Trade winds blew showers across the northwest section of the island as well as to the west side of the island. Rainfall was also reported in Kaanapali and parts of Lahaina. Overall, temperatures

have cooled and provided relief for most crops. The increased rainfall allowed for a decrease in insect pressure. For some areas, especially irrigated fields surrounded by dry landscape, the added showers provided some relief from wildlife feeding. Planting and harvesting of most crops remained active.

Honolulu County

Weather conditions remained fair to good for crop development during the week. Windward crop-growing areas benefited from the light showers early in the week, sunny days, and slightly cooler temperatures. Leeward districts remained sunny and dry with high temperatures and light to moderate trade winds. Irrigation levels remained heavy in most crop growing areas. The Waimanalo irrigation system level was measured at 16.75 feet as of October 12, 2007. Mandatory conservation measure requiring a 30-percent cutback in water usage for all consumers of the Waimanalo Irrigation system remained in place. Rains early in the week provided some soil moisture to fields that were required to cut back on irrigation. Most fruit and vine crops in other areas made fair to good progress. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was moderate during the week.

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Kauai County

Weather conditions were good for crop progress during the week. A high pressure system northwest of the state kept trade winds at light to moderate levels and brought beneficial rains to the windward crop-growing areas and the upper elevations. Leeward crop-growing areas remained mostly sunny and dry with light to moderate winds and very little rainfall. Orchards and fruit crops were in good condition. Temperatures were moderate to high with increased humidity through the week. Leafy crops made fair to good progress due to the passing showers and overcast conditions in some areas. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was at moderate levels. Spraying for control was on regular schedules.



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Bananas

Big Island orchards were in generally good condition. Soil moisture was adequate. Field activities such as spraying for disease control, leaf trimming, and harvesting were on-going in Pepeekeo and Keaau. Leeward and central fields on Oahu were in good condition with moderate to heavy supplies for the market. Heavy irrigation continued as those fields remained dry. Windward fields were in fair to good condition with light supplies. Overall harvesting on Oahu was expected to be at moderate to heavy levels as the shorter day length and slightly cooler temperatures have slowed ripening. Kauai's orchards were in fair to good condition. Passing showers provided some valuable soil moisture for most orchards. Spraying for insect infestation was on a regular schedule.

Papayas

Big Island orchards in the lower Puna area were in good to fair condition. Good soil moisture and sunny periods benefited most of the young and new orchards. Young trees in the Pohoiki area were in the seedling to first flower stage of development. Mature trees in adjacent fields had medium to full fruit columns. Mature trees in the lower Opihikao area were in generally good condition with full fruit columns. Isolated orchards in the area had young trees with heavy insect infestation. Spraying for insect control was required. Spraying for weed control was also required in some fields. On Oahu, overall harvesting was at moderate levels with some orchards being re-worked for future harvest after being damaged by a wildfire. In other areas of the island, fruit development and ripening were fair to good with cooler temperatures favoring crop progress. Orchards on Kauai continued to make fair to good progress during the week. Pickings continued at moderate to light levels from several fields in active harvest.

Vegetables

Head Cabbage

The Big Island's Waimea crop was in fair to good condition. Heavy irrigation maintained normal crop progress. Maui's crop continued to benefit from the cooling growing conditions, even though there has been some noticeable decrease in growth and development for most fields. Insect pressure was moderate to low. Steady planting and harvesting was observed. Overall, the crop was in mostly good condition. On Oahu, insect infestations were light and being controlled by regular spraying. Harvesting will be light.

Sweet corn

Big Hawaii fields made good progress due to sunny weather and

beneficial showers providing adequate moisture. Supplies will be for local sales. Windward and central Oahu fields continued to make good progress with the sunny and dry weather during the week along with heavy irrigation. Areas affected by water use restrictions have cut back on planting activities and have experienced decreased yields. Overall supplies will be moderate to heavy.

Dry onion

Maui's crop made steady progress. Growth and development were good with less heat stress than the previous months. Insect pressure was still present in most fields, but the crop was not adversely affected and rated in fair condition. Planting activity slowed slightly.

Other Crops

Coffee

Kauai's fields were in good condition due to favorable weather during the week. Mostly sunny days prevailed with beneficial rains keeping the reservoirs supplied for irrigation and providing soil moisture good that ensured normal crop development. Occasional breezy trade winds and rains caused light fruit drop, however, harvesting continued very active with about a month left to the season.

Sugarcane

Sugarcane fields on Kauai were in very good condition for the last week of this season's harvest. Planting was expected to continue until the end of the year. Favorable weather conditions including rains at the upper elevations kept reservoir levels and ditches supplied which ensured adequate irrigation for good crop progress. ■

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	1.2	0.7 _p	0.0	0.0	15.8 _p
	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	7.5	2.1 _p	0.0	0.0	38.1 _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	4.9	4.6 _p	0.0	0.0	49.4 _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	11.2	4.4 _p	0.0	0.0	100.1 _p
	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	1.2	0.1 _p	0.0	0.0	53.3 _p
	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	10.5	4.5 _p	0.0	0.0	80.0 _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	5.1 _p	2.5 _p	0.0	0.0	32.7 _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	0.8	0.4 _p	0.0	0.0	9.6 _p
	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 _p	0.0	0.0	0.7 _p
	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	0.1	0.6 _p	0.0	0.0	8.8 _p
	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	1.4	0.2 _p	0.0	0.0	15.5 _p
	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	1.7	2.1 _p	0.0	0.0	22.2 _p
	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	0.3	0.0 _p	0.0	0.0	8.2 _p
	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	1.0	0.5 _p	0.0	0.0	12.9 _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	1.3	0.5 _p	0.0	0.0	24.0 _p
	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	5.6	2.9 _p	0.0	0.0	45.8 _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	1.6 _p	1.5 _p	0.0	0.0	28.2 _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 October 14, 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)	0.03	0.00	0.10	0.01	M	0.00	0.00	0.14	15.82
2. Kealahou (HI84)	0.19	0.11	0.00	0.00	M	0.01	0.00	0.31	38.10
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.96	0.00	0.28	0.00	M	0.00	0.00	1.24	49.35
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.31	0.03	0.60	0.08	M	0.00	0.08	1.10	100.05
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.25
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.74	0.03	M	0.09	M	0.00	0.17	1.03	80.04
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.26	0.42	0.39	0.01	M	0.06	0.06	1.20	32.70
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	M	0.00	0.00	0.35	9.60
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69
10. Wailuku (HI66)	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.00	M	0.31	0.00	0.41	8.78
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	M	M	M	0.09	15.51
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.11	0.00	0.01	0.00	M	0.01	0.04	0.17	22.17
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.22
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	M	0.09	0.00	0.19	12.89
Island of Kauai									
15. Anahola (HI48)	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	M	0.01	0.00	0.05	23.96
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.21	0.23	0.02	0.01	M	0.01	0.00	0.48	45.83
17. Omao (HI51)	0.37	0.15	0.06	M	M	M	M	0.58	28.15

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