



# Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

Week ending: October 28, 2007

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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## Shear Line Brings Showers To Kauai



### Weather Review

Variable weather conditions were fair to good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, October 28. At the start of the week, a shear line brought clouds, light to moderate rain, and strong breezes to Kauai while the rest of the state was generally dry. Trade winds strengthened as the week progressed and resulted in gusty conditions in some areas. Spraying for control of insects and diseases were hampered by the windy conditions. Some forms of irrigation were also rendered less efficient by the gusty winds. Overall, showers were generally light to moderate and concentrated in windward areas. Daytime temperatures were at or below normal highs. The generally cooler conditions were beneficial for most crops and helped lower the need for irrigation.

#### Hawaii County

Weather conditions were favorable for crops in many parts of the island. Early in the week, southerly winds resulted in clear skies over most of the island. South Kona slopes were the exception as clouds built-up against the slopes all day Monday. By Tuesday, winds became more easterly and lighter. Scattered clouds and mostly sunny skies dominated daytime conditions

across the island. Irrigated fields benefited from the warm summer-like conditions. Growth rates got a boost from the high amounts of sunlight and adequate water supplied from irrigation systems. Non-irrigated fields and pastures in the districts of Hilo and Puna saw soil moisture rise in the later half of the week with daily rain that lasted through the weekend. Crop progress increased and in most crops were in fair to good condition. Hamakua also received some much needed rain, but in lesser amounts. Pastures in leeward areas of Kohala and North Kona, which were already experiencing prolonged dry conditions, continued to decline in condition. Warm southerly winds brought little to no moisture and instead dried soils out even further. Feed supplies continued to dwindle in these areas as well as in Hamakua pastures. Light, scattered showers later in the week helped to replenish moisture in some areas, but more rain is needed to improve conditions. Ka'u experienced mostly sunny skies, light cloud cover over the slopes, and little to no rain.

#### Maui County

Crops made fair to good progress under variable weather conditions. The first half of the week was generally sunny and dry. As trade winds strengthen, showers also increased and were widespread at

times. Most of the rain fell in windward areas with the upper sections of Maui remaining relatively dry.

#### Honolulu County

Weather conditions were good to fair or crop development during the week. Windward crop-growing areas experienced mostly overcast skies with light isolated showers and passing sunny periods. Leeward districts remained sunny with periodic cloudy conditions and very light rainfall at the upper elevations. Winds were light and variable; becoming stronger as the week progressed. Temperatures were cooler in the night, and early-morning hours benefiting the cool-weather crops. Field preparation and increased planting for the upcoming season were being implemented. The Waimanalo irrigation system level was measured at 20.50 feet as of October 26, 2007. A mandatory conservation measure of 30 percent cutback in water usage for all consumers of the Waimanalo Irrigation system remained in place. Most fruit and vine crops in other areas made good progress. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was moderate with regular spraying for control.

#### Kauai County

Weather conditions were fair to good for crop development. A

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lingering shear line north of Kauai brought cloudy conditions and light isolated showers during the week to most crop-growing areas. Favorable rains in the windward sector helped with soil moisture, however, irrigation continued at moderate to heavy levels. Leeward crop-growing areas remained mostly sunny and dry with intermittent cloudy periods, isolated showers, and light to moderate variable winds. Orchards and fruit crops were in fair to good condition. Evening and night time temperatures were slightly cooler with the cloudy conditions. Leafy crops made fair to good progress with the cooler temperatures and increased soil moisture. Pressure from insect infestation and damage was light to moderate. Spraying for control was on regular schedules.



### Agricultural Highlights

#### Fruits

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##### **Bananas**

Steady rain later in the week saturated most fields in windward areas of the Big Island. Most orchards were in good condition, and field work was only slightly hampered by the wet conditions. Banana Bunchy Top virus incidence remained isolated to the Puna and Kona areas. Oahu orchards were in good to fair condition. Leeward and central orchards were in good condition. Moderate to heavy irrigation levels prevailed as showers were not enough for irrigation. However, overcast conditions decreased the plant's water needs. Windward Oahu 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. Overcast skies and cooler temperatures slowed fruit ripening slightly.

##### **Papayas**

On Oahu, fruit development and ripening were fair to good. Overcast skies and shorter day length were affecting the crop. Orchards on Kauai made fair to good progress during the week. Pickings continued at moderate to light levels from several fields in active harvest. Big Island orchards were in fair to good condition. Soil moisture was high due to almost daily rainfall in the Puna area. Young orchards continued to develop, and seedlings were growing rapidly. Flowering was continuous. Virus problems still plagued selected fields in Puna and some heavily infested areas appeared to be abandoned.

#### Vegetables

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##### **Chinese Cabbage**

On the Big Island, weeds were still competing with the crop in selected fields. Planting and field activities were steady. Heavy irrigation was needed to maintain crop progress. Overall, the Big Island crop was in fair to good condition.

##### **Head Cabbage**

On Oahu, harvesting is anticipated to be light. Insect infestation was light with regular spraying keeping good controls. On the Big Island, weed growth was still competing with the crop in selected fields. Planting and field activities were steady. Heavy irrigation was needed to maintain crop progress. Overall, the Big Island crop was in fair to good condition.

##### **Sweet Corn**

Windward and central Oahu fields continued to make good progress under fair weather conditions and heavy irrigation. Production is forecast to be at moderate to heavy

levels for the upcoming week. Corn plantings in windward areas of the Big Island received a boost in growth when relatively dry conditions were relieved by this week's rain. The added soil moisture and mostly sunny days boosted growth of young seedlings. Harvesting was mostly for on-island sales.

##### **Cucumbers**

On Oahu, pressure from insect infestation was at light to moderate. Harvesting was active in several fields, and overall production levels are expected to be moderate to heavy. ■

## Monthly Trend for Selected Stations

Comparison of 2007 cumulative monthly and annual totals with average monthly totals for selected stations. <sup>1/</sup>

Station name		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
<i>Inches</i>														
<b>Island of Hawaii</b>														
1. Kamuela	2007	1.4	3.7	1.3	0.8	0.4	1.9	2.7	1.8	1.2	1.2 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	16.2 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	3.3	3.7	7.3 <sub>p</sub>	5.4	7.5	2.6 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	38.6 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	1.2 <sub>p</sub>	1.1	3.0	3.8	5.7	4.9	6.4 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	51.1 <sub>p</sub>
	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	8.2 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	103.8 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	53.3 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	2.7	6.3	7.6	8.1	10.5	7.3 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	82.9 <sub>p</sub>
	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
<b>Island of Maui</b>														
7. Hana	2007	1.3	4.0 <sub>p</sub>	2.6 <sub>p</sub>	4.2	2.2	2.2	4.7	4.0	5.1 <sub>p</sub>	4.6 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	34.8 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	9.6 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	0.7 <sub>p</sub>
	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	0.7 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	8.9 <sub>p</sub>
	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
<b>Island of Oahu</b>														
11. Kahuku	2007	2.9	1.4	4.2	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4	0.6 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	15.9 <sub>p</sub>
	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	2.7 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	22.9 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	8.2 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	1.9	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.5	1.0	0.5 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	13.0 <sub>p</sub>
	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
<b>Island of Kauai</b>														
15. Anahola	2007	3.2	3.8	4.5	2.5	2.4	1.6	2.8	1.5	1.3	0.8 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	24.2 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	3.0	5.6	5.0 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	47.9 <sub>p</sub>
	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 <sub>p</sub>	4.6	4.1	2.0	1.5	3.5	3.2	3.4	1.6 <sub>p</sub>	1.5 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	28.2 <sub>p</sub>
	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

<sup>1/</sup> 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 28, 2007**  
 Daily, weekly, and year-to-date precipitation totals for selected Hawaii stations.<sup>1/</sup>

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		
<b>Island of Hawaii</b>					<i>Inches</i>				
1. Kamuela (HI86)	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.03	0.05	0.26	16.23
2. Kealakekua (HI84)	M	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.34	38.59
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	M	0.00	0.03	0.21	0.80	0.30	0.20	1.54	51.14
4. Mt. View (HI81)	M	0.00	0.10	0.49	0.99	0.60	0.51	2.69	103.83
5. Pahala (HI85)	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.30
6. Pahoa (HI83)	M	0.01	0.20	0.61	0.79	0.27	0.09	1.97	82.89
<b>Island of Maui</b>									
7. Hana (HI61)	M	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.17	0.03	0.03	0.33	34.82
8. Kula (HI65)	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.60
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69
10. Wailuku (HI66)	M	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	8.91
<b>Island of Oahu</b>									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	M	0.00	0.14	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.28	15.89
12. Mililani (HI14)	M	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.08	0.03	0.46	0.62	22.85
13. Waianae (HI17)	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.22
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	12.95
<b>Island of Kauai</b>									
15. Anahola (HI48)	M	0.00	0.02	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.07	0.20	24.23
16. Hanalei (HI45)	M	0.22	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.25	0.57	47.93
17. Omao (HI51)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	0.00	28.15

<sup>1/</sup> 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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