



Hawaii Weekly Crop Weather Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Week ending: September 28, 2008

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Mix Of Sunshine And Early Autumn Showers Benefits Agriculture



Weather Review

Weather conditions generally benefited agriculture during the week ending Sunday, September 28. Trade wind weather prevailed for most of the week and resulted in mostly sunny skies with showers mainly limited to the windward areas. Shower activity was enhanced early in the week by an upper level trough of low pressure. The presence of this cold air aloft contributed to increased showers for windward areas and heavy afternoon showers dousing some leeward locations. While the showers occasionally interrupted fieldwork and hindered spraying activities for farmers on Oahu and Kauai, the added rainfall increased soil moisture and replenished water supplies. Shower activity was lighter for the southern half of the State and drought conditions continued to linger in some areas. Trade winds slackened for the northern half of the State late in week as a cold front approached from the north; bring the chance of more showers. Overall, crops made fair to good progress during the week across the State. All previously imposed water conservation and restriction notices remained in effect throughout the State.

Hawaii County

Agriculture in windward sections improved slightly due to trade wind weather bringing in light showers early in the week. Farmers in various locations of Puna and Hilo received rainfall on Monday and Tuesday. Locally moderate showers occurred on occasion, but most showers were light and located against the slopes. Non-irrigated fields and orchards welcomed the brief increase in soil moisture. Light to moderate trade winds and partly cloudy skies also resulted in cooler temperatures for the windward side of the island. Catchment systems remained very low and showers were not sufficient to raise pond levels. Windward sections of the Hamakua and Kohala districts received only trace amounts of moisture. Much of these districts remained under severe drought conditions and the recent light showers did not bring much relief. Farmers in Waimea continued to irrigate their crops regularly in order to maintain normal crop progress. Most areas of the Kona districts were also dry during the week. Some localized showers occurred early in the week, but most Kona locations were warm with partly cloudy skies. Drought conditions still exist and were most severe in the interior sections extending to the

south into Ka`u. A small range fire in the South Point area was evidence of the extreme fire hazard that exist in drought stricken regions. Cloudy skies against the slopes of the Ka`u District did not bring much moisture. Pastures in upper Kona and Ka`u were very low in soil moisture, and skies were laden with vog on most days.

Maui County

Weather conditions continued to be beneficial for most sectors of Maui County's agriculture. A lack of significant rainfall, however, continued to impact pasture conditions and the overall landscape throughout the County. Water-use and conservation notices affected all sections of the County. Trade winds brought showers to windward sections, isolated spots in the Upcountry area, and through the central section of the island of Maui. Daytime temperatures were in the mid-80s and evening temperatures were cooling down as the weather transitions into fall.

Honolulu County

Weather conditions were fair for crop progress on Oahu during the week. Days were generally sunny in the morning with increasing cloud cover and rains in the afternoon over most crop growing areas of the island. An upper level low produced

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isolated heavy showers over the leeward districts and in some interior locations causing field work to be halted during the afternoons. Field activities resumed at the end of the week. Irrigation levels were at moderate to heavy levels in most fields. Pressure from insect infestation was at light to moderate levels. Spraying to contain the insect populations was hindered because of the afternoon showers. The mandatory 30 percent reduction in water use remained in effect for users of the Waimanalo Irrigation System.

Kauai County

Weather conditions for Kauai were good to fair for agriculture during the week. Sunny days with light to moderate trade winds became increasingly overcast and rainy after midweek. A convective weather pattern caused isolated heavy showers to disrupt farm activities in some fields especially those in leeward areas. Fields in windward areas experienced a more favorable mixture of sunny days and rains. The trade winds also allowed for cooler evening temperatures which benefited cool-weather crops. Rains at the upper elevations continued to replenish reservoirs and make irrigation water more available for uninterrupted use. Overall, crops made fair to good progress during the week. Pastures welcomed the showers which allowed soil moisture to increase and aided improved grass growth. Pressure from insect infestation was at light to moderate although spraying for control was hindered by the rains.



Agricultural Highlights

Fruits

Bananas

Light showers improved soil moisture briefly in orchards located

in the eastern half of the Big Island during the early days of the week. Harvesting and other field operations appeared to be normal. Oahu's banana orchards remained in fair condition. Leeward and central Oahu fields made good to fair progress with rains providing good overall soil moisture. Windward Oahu fields were in fair to good condition. Farmers continued to rogue plants in efforts to control the spread of the Banana Bunchy Top virus from all areas. New plantings on Oahu made fair to good progress. Kauai's orchards were in good to fair condition. Irrigation levels tapered off in some windward areas on some days as rain proved adequate field irrigation.

Papayas

On the Big Island, orchards in the Puna District received welcomed showers during the first half of the week. The condition of most papaya fields have been slowly improving due to the increased shower activity in the past few weeks. Overall, papaya orchards on the Big Island were in fair to good condition depending on location. Orchards on Oahu remained in fair to good condition. Spraying to slow the pressure of insect infestation was interrupted with the wet weather conditions during the week. Orchards on Kauai made fair progress during the week.

Vegetables

Head Cabbage

Most of the Big Island's Waimea crop was in good condition and quality of harvested heads remained good. Non-irrigated plantings, however, showed slowed growth and quality was generally fair in those fields. Maui's crop continued to make steady progress during the week. Late morning and early afternoon clouds over the major growing area helped to minimize stress from warm afternoon temperatures. The cloud cover also

helped to preserve ground moisture, which has been important especially during the hot summer months. Insect pressure continued to be low to moderate in most fields. Farmers were closely monitoring their fields to implement an effective spraying program. Overall, Maui's head cabbage crop was in fair to good condition.

Dry Onions

Maui's dry onion crop made steady progress. Current weather conditions are still warm, but cooler evening temperatures and periodic afternoon clouds offered some relief for young developing fields. The harvesting of the summer crop was nearly complete. Planting continued during the week, although it appeared to be slightly less. Overall, Maui's dry onion crop was in fair condition.

Other Crops

Ginger Root

Rains early in the week were beneficial to the current Big Island crop. However, overall growth has been hampered by drier than normal conditions on the Big Island and crop progress was slow.

Macadamia Nuts

Harvesting was active in many Big Island orchards. There were reports of feral pigs consuming nuts on the ground as drought conditions have forced more pigs out of the wild to search for food.

Halloween Pumpkins

The mix of sunshine and showers allowed plantings on Oahu to make fair to good progress during the week. Harvesting is expected to begin next week. ■

Monthly Trend for Selected Stations

Comparison of 2008 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	2008	3.5	3.5	0.4	1.5	1.2	1.0 _p	1.5	1.3	0.2 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.2 _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	2008	1.8	3.1	1.8	1.7	7.3	3.1 _p	7.9	2.5	3.9 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	32.9 _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	2008	9.6	24.9	3.2	2.4	4.5	1.6 _p	8.2	4.4	1.3 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	60.0 _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	2008	10.5	29.8	7.7	6.7	7.4	4.6 _p	10.6	5.1	3.6 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	85.9 _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	2008	0.0 _p	4.5 _p	0.3	3.5	0.8	1.6 _p	3.1	1.6	0.6 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0 _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	2008	12.3	30.4	6.2	8.0 _p	5.5	3.7 _p	6.4	5.1	4.0 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	81.6 _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	2008	6.4 _p	7.1	1.5	3.6	1.5 _p	2.5 _p	3.4 _p	5.8	2.4 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.2 _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	2008	1.4	1.0	0.1	2.6	0.2	0.3 _p	0.3	0.2	0.7 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9 _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	2008	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.1 _p	0.3	0.1	0.3 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7 _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	2008	1.3 _p	0.4 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7 _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	2008	1.0	3.1	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.6 _p	1.1	2.1	0.8 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.4 _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	2008	3.8	5.1	0.6	2.1	2.1	1.2 _p	1.8	1.9	1.6 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.1 _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	2008	0.1	1.7	0.9	0.3	2.6	0.2 _p	0.5	0.4	0.7 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.3 _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	2008	1.3 _p	0.6 _p	* _p	2.7	1.2	1.9 _p	2.1	0.9	1.5 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.2 _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. Moloaa Dairy	2008	1.7	1.5	0.6	3.4	1.5	1.7	2.5	2.2	1.8 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.8 _p
	Average	6.9	4.7	6.2	5.0	3.9	1.7	2.7	2.6	2.2	5.0	5.4	5.6	51.9
16. Hanalei	2008	5.2	14.2	2.6 _p	1.8 _p	0.7 _p	3.8	4.8 _p	4.9 _p	2.4 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.4 _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	2008	4.3	1.9 _p	1.9	2.4	2.4 _p	3.4 _p	4.0	3.4 _p	0.0 _p	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.8 _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 September 28, 2008
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	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	14.24
2. Kealakekua (HI84)	0.22	0.23	0.72	0.04	0.03	0.07	0.05	1.36	32.90
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.00	0.15	0.05	0.03	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.31	60.02
4. Mt. View (HI81)	0.16	0.07	0.35	0.17	0.36	0.02	0.00	1.13	85.94
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	15.98
6. Pahoa (HI83)	0.35	0.13	0.19	0.15	0.42	0.00	0.00	1.24	81.63
Island of Maui									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.33	0.00	0.38	0.20	0.18	0.00	0.00	1.09	34.19
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	6.85
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.74
10. Wailuku (HI66)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	0.00	1.65
Island of Oahu									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.07	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.22	10.36
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.06	0.23	0.15	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	20.08
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	7.30
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.01	0.01	0.16	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.22	12.23
Island of Kauai									
15. Moloaa Dairy	0.07	0.15	0.04	0.08	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.39	16.83
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.08	0.10	0.34	0.70	0.02	0.06	0.00	1.30	40.39
17. Omao (HI51)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	0.00	23.78

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